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FOUNDATION FOR AMATEUR RADIO

*The Official Journal of the Foundation For Amateur Radio, Inc.*

## OCTOBER 1998

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*AUTO-CALL is published monthly as the Official Journal of the Foundation for Amateur Radio, Inc. Comments made by columnists do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Foundation. No effort is made to investigate advertisers, therefore no warranty can be implied. Entered as third class non-profit matter at the Arlington, Virginia Post Office. Subscription rate is $8.00 per year.*

# Regional Hamfests and Other Events

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| October 4 | Columbia ARA, Howard County Fairgrounds, Columbia, MD | 410-796-2587 |
| October 4 | PackRats, Bucks County Drive-In, (Rt. 611), Warrenton, PA | |
| October 10 | Bahia Shrine AR Unit, Orlando (Maitland), FL | 407-380-2902 |
| October 16-17 | ARC-Bradford Area, Starke, FL | 352-473-3511 |
| October 18 | R.F. Hill Club, Sellersville, PA | |
| October 24 | Sumter ARA, Sumter, SC | |
| October 25 | Mason-Dixon Computer and Hamfest, Westminister, MD | 717-359-7090 |
| November 7 | South Carolina State Convention, Myrtle Beach, SC | |
| Nov. 21-22 | Southern Florida Section Convention, Tampa, FL | 813-525-5178 |

# NEXT FOUNDATION MEETING

The Foundation for Amateur Radio, Inc. meets at 8: p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month. **Visitors are always welcome!** The next meeting will be held on October 14th in Takoma Park, Maryland at Columbia Union College, HMS Richards Bldg., Flower Avenue (Take beltway exit 30, South on Colesville Road to Franklin Avenue, left on Franklin to Flower, right on Flower to Carroll Ave., left on Carroll to Greenwood Ave., left on Greenwood to 2nd building on left.

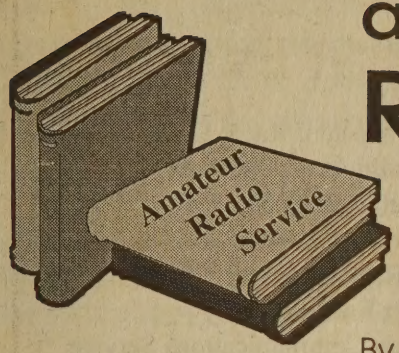
**Talk-in on 146.55**

*Photo by Murray Green, K3BEQ*

# On The Cover

Joe Nunemaker, KD3VR, proudly sits at his newly designed and constructed operating console. It's a beauty Joe! Joe can look forward to many happy hours of operating time in the winters months to come. Joe is on the Board of Directors of the Green Mountain Repeater Association and is the 1997 ARRL's Atlantic Division Amateur of the Year.

# Rules and Regs




By Jack Kelleher
W4ZC

This column will be devoted primarily to actions and reactions to the ARRL and FCC Radio amateur license restructuring proposals. (For those readers who "came in late", here's a brief summary of the matter).

In mid -July 1998 the ARRL Board approved a restructuring proposal from its "WRC-99 Planning Committee", which had been working on it since early in 1996; the proposal was sent to the FCC on July 22.

The FCC had been conducting a review of its rules since late in 1997, as part of its Congressionally-mandated biennial review of regulations applicable to licensees to determine whether certain rules are no longer necessary. This time the review specifically included Part 97 (Amateur Radio Service Rules), and the Commission announced that it would seek comment on amending the Radio Amateur Service rules to privatize further the administration of the Service and simplify the licensing process. (emphasis added).

The League letter of July 22 recognizes this parallel activity, and says in part: "the purpose of presenting this (proposal) to you now - - - is not to forestall or preclude the Amateur Radio Biennial Review item, but rather to complement the considerable work that we understand has already been performed by your Wireless Telecommunications Bureau staff.

Presently, the deadline for comments on the FCC item is December 1, 1998, and for reply comments, January 15, 1999.

We anticipate and encourage both individual amateurs and amateur organizations to comment on these proposals. Comments should be constructive, and objective. We don't believe that comments favoring the status quo will carry much weight.

## STRUCTURING THE RESTRUCTURING DEBATE (from ARRL Letter vol 17, #30, 7/31/98)

Love it or hate it, the ARRL's recent license restructuring plan certainly has generated considerable debate and controversy within the Amateur Radio community and gotten licensees thinking about what's good and what's not so good about the current system. ARRL Directors report they're getting lots of e-mail on both sides, and the overall trend appears to be in favor of the plan the Board released earlier this month.

Some hams have suggested the current system is just fine, and to change it will diminish the status of current licensees. ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ, has an answer for the "don't-change-anything" camp, however. "If you're flatly opposed to any change at all, I don't think that you've taken into consideration the changes that have occurred over the past seven years," he said. For example, Sumner points out that the Novice license—instituted in 1951—no longer is the route of entry to Amateur Radio for more than about 5% of the amateur population. Other than 10 meters, the Novice bands "are significantly underutilized," he observed. Sumner says amateurs can't make a case for additional bands if the present allocations aren't being used to capacity.

In recent years, most of those coming into the hobby have come in as Technicians. Nevertheless, they still must pass the Novice element, which

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# MEMBER CLUBS

Adams County Amateur Radio Society
Alexandria Radio Club
Amateur Radio Research and Develop. Corp.
AMSAT - Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation
Anne Arundel Radio Club
Antietam Radio Association, Inc.
ARINC Amateur Radio Club
Arlington Amateur Radio Club
Baltimore Amateur Radio Club
Baltimore Radio Amateur Television Society
Calvert Amateur Radio Association
Capital City Amateur Radio Society
Capital Hill Amateur Radio Society
Carroll County Amateur Radio Club
Central Maryland Amateur Radio Club
Charles County Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
Chaverim of the Greater Washington Area
Cheese Hollow Amateur Radio Society
Columbia Amateur Radio Association
Culpeper Amateur Radio Association
D-MARC - Digital Mid-Atlantic Radio Council
Department of State Amateur Radio Club
Dulles Amateur Radio Group
Explorer Post #80- Amateur Radio
Fauquier Amateur Radio Association
Federal City REACT Amateur Radio Club
Frederick Amateur Radio Club
Frederick Amateur Repeater Group
Goddard Amateur Radio Club
Green Mountain Repeater Association
Hanover Area Hamming Association
Historical Electronics Museum Amateur Radio Club
IBM Amateur Radio Club
Johns Hopkins University APL ARC
KB3BOI Repeater Group, Inc.
Kent Island Amateur Radio Club
Laurel Amateur Radio Club
Leisure World Amateur Radio Club
Loudoun Amateur Radio Group
MD/DC MARS (Navy Marine) Association
MADRAS
Maryland Emergency Phone Net
Maryland FM Association
Maryland Mobileers Amateur Radio Club
Mercury Amateur Radio Assn., NE Area
Metropolitan Communications Network
Metrovision Amateur TV Club
Mid-Atlantic DX & Repeater Assn.
Montgomery Amateur Radio Club
Montgomery Auxiliary Communications Service
Moose Amateur Radio Club
Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club
National Capitol ARES Council
National Capitol DX Association
Naval Research Laboratory Radio Club
NOAA Amateur Radio Club
North Point FM Association
Northern Virginia FM Association
Northern Virginia Radio Club
Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club
Opequon Radio Society
Pentagon Amateur Radio Club
Potomac Area VHF Society
Potomac Valley Radio Club
Prince George's Wireless Association, Inc.
Prince George's County ARES/RACES
Quarter Century Wireless Association, Inc.
- Baltimore Chapter #20
- Del-Mar-VA Chapter #150
- Shenandoah Valley Chapter #137
- Vic Clark Chapter #91
- Washington Chapter #23

Rock Creek Amateur Radio Association
St. Mary's County Amateur Radio Association
Shenandoah Valley Amateur Radio Club
Southern Maryland Amateur Radio Club
Southern Patuxent Amateur Radio Club
Stafford Amateur Radio Assn.
Sterling Park Amateur Radio Club
Summit Amateur Radio Association
Tri-County Amateur Radio Club
T-MARC, Middle Atlantic Repeater Council
Vienna Wireless Society
Voice of America Amateur Radio Club
Washington Adventist Amateur Radio Assn.
Washington Area Young Ladies ARC
Woodbridge Wireless, Inc.

includes questions on HF that are irrelevant to Technician ops. "This pretty much forces you to accept the fact that there must be some change," he said. "The real issue is how far should that change go, and on that, reasonable people can and will differ, and we'll be discussing that over the coming months as the process goes forward."

Sumner said nothing is cast in stone at this point, and if better ideas surface as a result of the current debate, "there will be every chance for those to be reflected in the ultimate FCC action."

## FCC STREAMLINES AWAY NOVICE, TECH PLUS TICKETS IN NPRM (from ARRL Letter vol 17, #32, 8-14-98)

The FCC has proposed to phase out the Novice and Technician Plus class licenses, leaving just four amateur license classes in place—Technician, General, Advanced, and Extra. The Commission also has asked the amateur community to express its opinions on Morse code requirements for licensing and testing, but offered no specific changes. And the FCC proposed to permit Advanced class licensees to administer amateur exams up through General class. The proposals were among several suggested rules changes and invitations to comment contained in an FCC Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, WT Docket 98-143, made public August 10.

In proposing to phase out the Novice and Tech Plus tickets, the FCC pointed to what it called "an unnecessary overlap between the Novice, Technician, and Technician Plus," and asserted that Technician and Tech Plus operators "predominantly" use FM and packet on VHF and UHF. The FCC said Novice applicants last year numbered fewer than 1000, while there were nearly 21,500 Technician applications.

Under the FCC plan, Novice and Tech Plus licensees would retain current operating privileges, but no new Novice or Tech Plus licenses would be granted. For examination purposes, current examination elements 2 and 3A would be combined into a new element 3A. For administrative purposes, the FCC would combine the current Technician and Tech Plus databases into a single Technician database.

The proposal would eliminate the 5 WPM code test, Element 1A, as a required element for any class of license, while retaining references to it elsewhere in the rules. This has left hams wondering exactly what the Commission intends. The elimination of the Novice and Tech Plus license classes and Element 1A as a requirement appear to effectively raise the bar for most future applicants wanting HF operating privileges, unless the FCC ultimately reduces Morse code requirements.

The FCC did not propose to change any operating frequencies or license privileges for amateurs. However, the FCC does seeks comment on the disposition of the current Novice HF bands, which carry a 200-W output power limit for all licensees. The FCC invited comment on whether it would be "appropriate" to delete the Novice bands and the power restrictions on higher-class licensees and permit Novices to operate CW anywhere on 80, 40, 15, and 10 meters at 200 W output.

The FCC opened the door to comments on all aspects of Morse code testing from the amateur community. In particular, the Commission said it wants to know if hams prefer the current three-level system or would like to see it reduced to a one or two-tier system—and, if so, at what required speeds.

The FCC asked whether hams would be willing to trade a reduction in Morse code requirements for additional written elements on newer digital technologies "which, in part, are replacing the Morse code." And, the Commission asked whether it should consider specifying Morse code examination methods, such as fill-in-the-blank or one minute of solid copy, instead of allowing VEs to determine the testing method.

*Continued next page*

## FCC PROPOSES OTHER AMATEUR RADIO RULES CHANGES (ARRL Ltr v17, #32, 8-14-98)

In its Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, WT Docket WT 98-143, the FCC also seeks comments on how to deal with potential abuses of the current disability waiver for higher-speed Morse code tests. In its proposed rules, however, the FCC has altogether deleted current language regarding a physician's certification to waive the 13 or 20 WPM Morse requirement. In RM-9196, the ARRL had asked the FCC to require anyone applying for an exemption pursuant to a doctor's certification to first attempt the higher-speed test before examination credit could be given. The League also asked that VECs have access to relevant medical information from the certifying physician. The FCC said the ARRL's proposal would place "an unfair burden on examinees" and raised serious privacy and confidentiality issues.

The FCC went along with an ARRL petition and proposed allowing Advanced class hams to be eligible to prepare and administer license examinations up through General class under the VE program. The Commission said the change would permit greater testing opportunities for hams. The FCC also invited comments on whether it should change written examination requirements "to provide VEs and VECs additional flexibility in determining the specific contents of written examinations."

Referring to yet another ARRL petition, RM-9150, the FCC invited comments on how it can improve its Amateur Radio enforcement processes. The FCC applauded the ARRL "for its creative thinking" in that petition, but said the specific proposal was "inconsistent" with the current statutory role of administrative law judges. The FCC raised the possibility of encouraging complainants to include a draft order "to show cause to initiate a revocation or cease and desist hearing proceeding." The FCC said it also wants to hear how it can better use the services of the Amateur Auxiliary in beefing up enforcement.

The FCC proposed to phase out Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service, or RACES, stations by not renewing their licenses. No new RACES licenses have been issued since 1980, and only 249 valid licenses remain. The FCC said RACES stations no longer are needed because any amateur station that has been properly registered with a civil defense organization has the same privileges as a RACES station.

The FCC also used the occasion to clarify the definition of "power" as used in the RF exposure table in Section 97.13(c)(1). The FCC said it refers to peak envelope power (PEP) input to the antenna. It also made clear that no one holding an FCC-issued ham ticket may apply for a reciprocal permit for alien amateur licensee.

Without comment in the NPRM text, the FCC also appears to have eliminated the 365-day time limit for a Certification of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE) to remain valid. The current 365-day limit remains in proposed wording in Section 97.9(b), Operator license, however.

The FCC is expected to issue an erratum to correct outright errors in the NPRM, but it has no plans to clarify the Commission's intent on individual issues.

The FCC set a longer-than-normal comment period. The deadline for comments is December 1, 1998. The deadline for reply comments is January 15, 1999. The FCC will accept electronic comments via the Internet at http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html.

A copy of the complete NPRM has been posted on the ARRL Web page, http://www.arrl.org. The FCC NPRM also can be downloaded from the FCC Web site in WordPerfect 5.1 and text versions as http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Wireless/Notices/1998/fcc98183.wp or http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Wireless/Notices/1998/fcc98183.txt, respectively. An article and an editorial in the October issue of QST will explore the FCC's NPRM and its

*Continued next page*

implications in greater detail.

### FCC DENIES CHECKPOINT SYSTEMS PETITION (see ARRL Ltr v17 #32, 8-14-98)

The FCC has turned down a bid by Checkpoint Systems, a maker of theft deterrent systems for stores, to raise the permissible radiated and power-line conducted emission levels of its products operating at HF. The Part 15 devices, known as electronic article surveillance or EAS systems, are located at store entrance and exit gates. The gates include a transmitter and receiver that can detect passive electronic tags attached to merchandise and trigger an alarm.

Last year, Checkpoint asked the FCC to be allowed to operate between 1.705 and 30 MHz at a maximum radiated emission level of 1000 uV/meter (measured at a distance of 30 meters), and a maximum conducted emission level of 3000 uV. Current rules permit a maximum radiated emission level of 30 uV/meter (measured at a distance of 30 meters) between 1.705 and 30 MHz, or 100 uV per meter between 1.705 and 10 MHz. The current conducted emission limit for such devices operating between 1.705 and 10 MHz is 250 uV.

In its comments, the ARRL opposed the Checkpoint petition arguing that it would result in increased interference to amateur HF operation. The League also said Checkpoint had not provided any technical analysis of the potential for increased interference at the frequencies in question.

In a decision issued August 5, the FCC went along with the League, saying Checkpoint had not provided sufficient technical analysis to justify the requested tenfold increase in radiated emission limits. The Commission also said that Checkpoint had not justified its assertion that its EAS systems were in danger of being "drowned out" by other sources of radio noise.

### 17/33 8/21/98 SPECTRUM BILL PICKS UP MORE SPONSORS (ARRL Ltr v17 #33 8-21-98)

During August, HR 3752, the Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act, picked up seven new cosponsors: Rep Frank R. Wolf, Virginia; Rep Linda Smith, Washington; Rep George Miller, California; Rep Max Sandlin, Texas; Rep Lynn Rivers, Michigan; Rep William Goodling, Pennsylvania; and Rep Anne Northup, Kentucky. This brings the total to 64, plus the original sponsor Rep Michael Bilirakis of Florida.

### GUATEMALAN HAMS SEEK PUBLIC SUPPORT TO RETURN LOST BANDS (From ARRL Ltr v17 #31, 8-7-98)

The Amateur Radio Club of Guatemala (Club de Radioaficionados de Guatemala—CRAG) has issued "a call to the public conscience" as part of its effort to get the Guatemalan government to restore access to UHF and SHF bands to hams. In 1996, the Guatemalan Congress eliminated 40% of the Amateur Radio frequencies including the

*Continued next page*

## *Do you have a nomination for FAR's Ham of the Month?*

Any licensed amateur radio operator in the Auto-Call subscription area who has contributed significantly to the amateur community can be nominated. Provide a narrative of 250 to 500 words describing the contributions of the nominee and forward to the FAR Ham of the the Month nomination chairman, Tony Young, WA3YLO, at 12016 Long Ridge Lane, Bowie, MD 20715.

# American Radio Relay League Report

By John Swafford, W4HU

*The purpose of the ARRL Report is to provide the essential news of interest to active, organizationally minded radio amateurs faster than it can be disseminated by our official Journal QST. We strive to be fast, accurate and readable in our reporting. Material from the ARRL Report may be reproduced in whole or in part in any form including photo reproduction and electronic data banks, provided that credit is given to The ARRL Letter and The American Radio Relay League.*

## HAMS RESPOND TO WEATHER EMERGENCIES

It was a busy weather week for Amateur Radio. The first major storm of the Atlantic hurricane season, Hurricane Bonnie, hit the North Carolina coast on August 26, knocking out power to thousands of homes and causing structural damage and widespread flooding from torrential rain. The New Hanover County EOC wound up having to operate from emergency power. Schools in the county were damaged. A hospital in Brunswick County lost its roof.

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***RULES & REGS, from previous page***

formerly shared 430 to 440 MHz band and SHF bands. The spectrum has been sold for commercial use.

Reports from that Central American nation indicate that commercial land mobile stations are now being licensed in the 70-cm band. CRAG and amateur satellite interests elsewhere in the world worry that the commercial stations and existing amateur satellite operations will not be able to comfortably co-exist in the band. Amateur satellites operate between 435 and 438 MHz.

According to CRAG, the Guatemalan government has so far ignored its objections that the frequencies should be reserved for ham use in accordance with ITU radio regulations. CRAG already has presented a formal request to the Guatemalan Ministry of Communications to restore 430 to 440 MHz to Amateur Radio use but says the government has not responded to its pleas.

In a statement, CRAG expressed concerns that the commercial activity at 70 cm would cause interference to neighboring countries. "A

*Continued on page 13*

## National Capital ARES Council Public Service Calendar

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| S/S | Oct | 3/4 | ARRL Simulated Emergency Test |
| Sun | Oct | 25 | Marine Corps Marathon - Jeanne, N4ZGI (703)971-0384 |
| Thu | Dec | 31 | First Night - Alexandria - Jeanne, N4ZGI (703)971-0384 |

As the storm approached, more than a half million residents and visitors in the Carolinas were ordered to move inland. Mobile home owners in 44 North Carolina counties were asked to evacuate. Officials opened more than 100 shelters in North Carolina to accommodate those who were temporarily displaced. "our goal is to have at least one ham in every shelter," North Carolina Section Manager Reed Whitten, AB4W, said.

Amateur Radio Emergency Service teams deployed in coastal Carolina regions as the massive hurricane approached. Hams at shelters provided communication support and backup, handled outgoing health-and-welfare traffic, and reassured shelter residents that they were not totally out of touch with the outside world. For that reason alone, Whitten said, hams working in the shelters were advised to maintain a high profile.

The Hurricane Watch Net was activated on 14.325 MHz. Hurricane Watch Net members provide ground-level meteorological reports to the National Hurricane Center, which houses W4EHW.

ARRL PIO Frank Ebbinghouser, N2EMR, in Wilmington; NC, says a local TV station interviewed one ham at a shelter. "We are all fine," Ebbinghouser said in an e-mail message to ARRL Headquarters. He said damage from Bonnie did not appear to be as serious as in past storms.

By Friday, August 28, Whitten reported that many shelters and EOCs had released their Amateur Radio operators, although one relief operator was diverted to Carteret County after shelter in Sampson County closed.

The HF stations in Kinston and the state EOC went into standby. A few EOCs and shelters remained active, and the Tar Heel Emergency Net (3.923/7.232 MHz) was monitoring for them. The net remained in continuous operation for more than two days, providing communication for Emergency Management and relief agencies.

As Bonnie churned slowly away from North Carolina, hams in Virginia awaited their turn. On August 26, Virginia ARES/RACES had activated in anticipation of the storm. Virginia State Races Officer and ARES SEC Frank Mackey, K4EC, said that many local emergency operation centers were staffed with hams, and many shelters opened in anticipation of evacuations. ARES station W4ZA at the state EOC was activated. As the storm appeared to be losing strength, Mackey reported that ham radio operations were standing down and shelter closing. Then, Bonnie changed her mind.

Hurricane Bonnie was downgraded to a tropical storm Thursday, August 27, but picked up steam again as it headed north and regained hurricane status, catching hams and emergency officials off guard. Hardest hit was the Tidewater area of Virginia, which experienced heavy rain and damaging winds—clocked unofficially at more than 100 MPH. At least one death has been reported in Virginia.

Virginia Electric Power reported more than 250,000 customers without power . Officials closed the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel due to the strong winds. A roof was reported blown off an apartment building in the Oceanview section of Norfolk.

"The Norfolk area was still reeling under continued battering, higher-than-expected tidal surges coupled with local high tides, and strong winds," Mackey said Friday.

Damage in North Carolina alone is estimated at up to $2 billion. Meanwhile, hams in the Southeast were keeping close watch on Hurricane Danielle, which could arrive August 31.

## OPTIMISM REIGNS IN PHASE 3D CAMP

Despite numerous setbacks, optimism rules in the Phase 3D camp. AMSAT officials again express tentative confidence that Phase 3D will some day ride aboard an Ariane 5 series vehicle—or another compatible launcher—perhaps next year.

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That's a change from the glum mood of last June, when the European Space Agency dropped the Phase 3D payload from the third and final Ariane 5 proveout series, replacing it with a dummy Eutelsat payload. This week, AMSAT-NA Executive Vice President Keith Baker, KB1SF, said that AMSAT still considers the Ariane 503 test important, even though Phase 3D won't be aboard.

Meanwhile, Baker said that, aside from a few minor modifications, the Phase 3D satellite is "all but complete" at the Orlando, Florida, integration lab. The next major phase involves testing the satellites ability to withstand the harsh environment of space.

## ARRL TO DEBUT WEB MAGAZINE SEPTEMBER 1

The ARRL Web Extra, the new ARRLWeb publication, debuts September 1 on the League's new Members Only Web Site, http://www.arrl.org/members/. The ARRLWeb Extra will offer news and features, photos and sounds from the world of Amateur Radio and the ever-changing communication scene.

A totally new online publication, The ARRL Web Extra, will publish Amateur Radio news and features—including insider news, technical and how-to-topics, additional information on Product Review items, "First Looks" at upcoming products that will be reviewed in QST, and occasional offbeat items, a "Foto Gallery," and information about—and links to—interesting Web sites. From time to time, The ARRL Web Extra will explore subjects only indirectly related to Amateur Radio.

Web publication also will make it possible for Product Review and New Products items to include sound and more pictures that we might not have room for in QST.

Members now get a chance to actually hear what a new transceiver sounds like, for example. The first edition of The ARRL Web Extra takes a closer look at the new SGC SG-2020 transceiver, providing sound clips of CW and SSB reception (in Real Audio format) plus interior photographs not included in QST. The full-blown SG-2020 Product Review will appear elsewhere on the Members Only Web Site and in October's QST.

The Members Only Web Site will make current and past QST Product Review columns available in a searchable archive as Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) files. The QST Product Review Columns page lists all Product Reviews from 1990 to the present.

The premier edition of The ARRL Web Extra will feature several general-interest articles. There's an exciting narrative by Ed Petzolt, K1LNC, of how he used ham radio to help save the lives of a missionary family, caught up in a hostage situation in a remote section of Guatemala. Sound clips of actual transmissions are included. Ralph Katz, KB8ZOY, tells the uplifting tale of how "Two Honest Hams"—who also happened to be pretty good detectives—retrieved his H-T, lost at the Dayton Hamvention.

News items for the Extra will be updated as soon as possible, which means that breaking stories sometimes will be available before they're published in The ARRL Letter or issued as W1AW bulletins. Whenever available, pictures and sound cuts will augment our news coverage. The ARRL Web Extra is free of advertising and other "commercial clutter." News and article submittals are welcome via e-mail to awextra@arrl.org. In a related move, The ARRL Letter now will become more available to League members. ARRL members may subscribe to The ARRL Letter and receive it via e-mail directly from ARRL Headquarters free-of-charge and without having to go through the third-party listserver. Members can choose to receive The ARRL Letter via e-mail when they register to use the Members Only Web Site. They'll also be able to start to stop their Letter subscription at any from the Membership Data page on the Members Only site.

Current and back issues of the ARRL Letter will continue to be available on the public ARRL

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Web as well. In addition, ARRL Audio News, the weekly RealAudio news broadcast that's compiled and edited from The ARRL Letter, will continue to be available via the public ARRL Web site. ARRL Audio News also is available by telephone at 860-594-0384.

ARRL Senior Assistant Technical Editor Rick Lindquist, N1RL, will edit The ARRL Web Extra. He will continue to edit The ARRL letter and edit and voice ARRL Audio News.

To access the ARRL Members Only Web Site welcome page, League members need only point their browsers to http://www.arrl.org/members/. Register by providing your call sign and your ARRL membership number—found on your QST mailing label. You'll also be prompted to select a password. If you're not a member, you can join the ARRL online via the ARRL Web site at http://www.arrl.org.

## IN BRIEF:

* ARRL local club category rule change: The ARRL Awards Committee has increased the distance measurement for local clubs in club competition from 20 to 35 miles in ARRL-sponsored contests. The action was taken on a recommendation from the ARRL Contest Advisory Committee. The new change affects Section 8.4.3.3. It will now read: "All members must reside and operate within 35 miles of the club center." The change goes into effect January 1, 1999, for all ARRL-sponsored contests featuring club competition.

* Vanity update; The FCC in Gettysburg reports it has processed vanity call sign applications received through August 5. In the last processing run, the FCC granted 68 call signs. Another 45 applications hit the work in process (WIPs) stack for further processing. The FCC has formally announce that the vanity call sign application fee will be $13 beginning with applications received on or after September 14, 1998.—FCC

* Temotu added to DXCC list: The ARRL Awards Committee has accepted a recommendation of the ARRL DX Advisory Committee to add the Temotu Province (H40) of the Solomon Islands to the DXCC list. The addition will be effective with contacts made on or after March 31, 1998, 23:59 UTC. The DXCC Desk will accept QSL cards for Temotu Province (H40) beginning October 1, 1998. QSL cards received before that time will be returned without action. Temotu Province includes the Santa Cruz, Reef, Duff and Vanikolo Island groups. They are located more than 356 kilometers from the main grouping of the Solomon Islands.—DXCC Desk.

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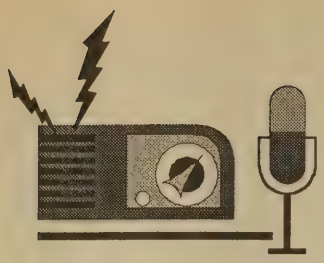
*RULES & REGS, from page 10*

commercial communication service is incompatible with the Amateur Radio Service," CRAG said. CRAG also worried that the commercial activity would strain relations with other countries, and that Guatemalan hams would not be able to take part in future space and satellite communication, including the International Space Station.

Beyond that, CRAG said, eliminating the 70-cm band in Guatemala "also discards its beneficial use for thousands of Guatemalans in case of natural disasters and emergencies."

Further north, Mexican authorities last year auctioned spectrum at 440 to 450 MHz and 485 to 495 MHz—currently all or part of TV channels 16, 17 and 18—for "fixed or mobile wireless services." Gina Dalma of the Mexican Federal Telecommunications Commission (COFETEL) says five fixed-wireless service licenses were offered in those bands; another four (for what she called "national footprint") already are held by Iusacell (Bell Atlantic).

COFETEL's 1998 auction plan indicates intentions to auction 148-174 MHz and 450-470 MHz for "private communication systems" on the state level.



# DX DX DX

By John Kanode, N4MM

## SEVERAL MAJOR DXPEDITIONS ANNOUNCED

Several major DXpeditions were announced at the recent DX Convention in New Orleans. Frank Smith, AH0W mentioned that there is a major DXpedition planned for Rodriguez, 3B9 in January of 1999. It will be conducted by a team of international operators from Europe, Japan and the US. More info as it becomes available. 8V4FH is expecting to get permission to operate from Pratas Island, BV9P in the next few months. BV4FH, Paul would like to know on what bands, modes that you need Pratas. His E-Mail is bv4fh@ms2.hinet.net. In the US most need Pratas on all bands and modes. The past two operations were conducted at the bottom of the cycle and the only band you had a chance to work them on was 20 SSB and the openings were very brief.

Zorro, JH1AJT has been invited by the Queen of Bhutan to operate there. He is planning a DXpedition there with a team of international operators in early 1999. This was also announced at the DX Convention in Visalia in May. Both Bhutan and Pratas are near the top of the most wanted DX list.

Also a DXpedition is planned for Laos, XW in the late Fall or early Winter of 1998. More info as it becomes available.

## UPCOMING DX CONTESTS

| | |
|---|---|
| VK/ZL Oceania SSB DX Contest | Oct 3-4 |
| RSGB 21/28 MHz SSB Contest | Oct 4 |
| VK/ZL Oceania CW DX Contest | Oct 10-11 |
| Worked All Germany Contest | Oct 17-18 |
| RSGB 21/28 MHz CW Contest | Oct 18 |
| CQ WW SSB DX Contest | Oct 24-25 |

## TIDBITS

The ARRL Awards Committee voted to accept the DXAC recommendation to add H40, TEMOTU to the DXCC List. Contacts dated March 31, 1998 @2359z or later will be accepted for DXCC credit. Cards can be submitted for credit after October 1, 1998.

Gus, K45XT will be active from Guam using the call KH2/K45XT. He plans to be on all HF bands plus 16# meters.

Some thought that Nevis may be a candidate for a new DXCC entity when the vote took place for them to secede from St. Kitts. Well the vote took place but they did not get the two thirds majority and the vote on separation failed.

Frank Smith, AH0W won the New Orleans DX Convention "DXer of the Year" award presented to him at the recent New Orleans DX Convention. It was for his efforts in Amateur Radio operations from Laos and his recent XW30/XW30A DXpedition.

AUTO CALL

...submissions are due the 1st day of the month prior to the month of publication.
Submit all Club Columns, Shack Sales, and commercial advertising copy to:

John Queen, Editor, Auto Call Magazine
755 Woodland Way, Owings, MD 20736

*Foundation for Amateur Radio*

# HAM OF THE MONTH

## H. D. Scott, N3LFL

I recall seeing him sitting behind a small table outside of the now defunct Maryland Radio Center checking applications for a local VE testing session in 90 degree temperatures, with the sun beating down mercilessly. And again, in the winter time when you could barely hold a pencil in your hand for the cold. Month after month he could be counted upon to be there. And he was! During the annual Laurel Day celebration on Main Street (USA), he is in the club booth acting as Net Control. Close by is his portable antenna system attached to his heavy duty vehicle, set-up especially for the occasion. And if this was not enough, he has contributed his services and equipment for Field Day, and numerous special events for local radio clubs, in particular the Laurel Radio Club and the Green Mountain Repeater Association. I'm referring *to H.D. Scott, N3LFL.*

As a member of the Green Mountain Repeater Association, for example, he is a repeater Control Operator and the Association's liaison to the Amateur Radio Emergency Service. He also attends monthly Board of Director meetings, providing input as required. His assistance in getting things done administratively for the Association has also helped to save the membership money. I have seen him put in a 12 hour work day and have no hesitation about attending an important Board meeting in the evening.

Remember the days when the Washington DC area had heavy snow? Well, guess who was out there ferrying nurses back and forth to their hospital/homes in frigid weather and icy road conditions, and assisting others in getting around town? The number of people that he has helped, both in the amateur service and his marine boat repair business is endless. Simply ask him to do it and you can consider it done! His generosity and contributions are endless.

And finally, is his unselfishness and kindness in helping others who are not fortunate enough to be able to totally help themselves. One of his best friends is incapacitated and confined primarily to an electric wheel chair. On numerous occasions H.D. has provided radio and computer equipment to his friend at home or when in the hospital, in addition to repairing and installing his antennas. And in doing so he is unassuming, doing so out of friendship and a strong desire to help. We are very fortunate to have *H.D. Scott, N3LFL,* as a member of the Amateur Radio community and nominate him for FAR 'S *Ham of the Month*

### *Do you have a nomination for FAR's Ham of the Month?*

Any licensed amateur radio operator in the Auto-Call subscription area who has contributed significantly to the amateur community can be nominated. Provide a narrative of 250 to 500 words describing the contributions of the nominee and forward to the FAR Ham of the the Month nomination chairman, Tony Young, WA3YLO, at 12016 Long Ridge Lane, Bowie, MD 20715.

# FAR Meeting Minutes

## August 12, 1998
## Takoma Park, MD

FAR President, Chuck Sommer (N4OSD), called the meeting to order at 8:05 p.m. at Columbia Union College in Takoma Park, MD. The attendees introduced themselves. There were 22 trustees and one visitor in attendance representing 22 member organizations.

**Secretary's Report** - The May minutes were approved as mailed out by secretary Dan Blasberg (KA8YPY). Hugh Katz' (KB3TB) address was corrected.

Two new representative where approved. Dan Blasberg (KA8YPY) replaces Ken Easton (N3HLY) as FAR representative for Green Mountain Repeater Association. John Strong (WA3YJA) replaces Vertner Mandelstamm (W3ADS) for Leisure World ARC.

The **Treasurer's Report** was given by Charles Johnson (N3HFO) and accepted.

**Auto-Call** - Tony Young (WA3YLO) reported that there was nothing new to report.

**Survivor's Assistance** - Tony Young (WA3YLO) reported that he has many items for sale. For more information, contact Tony at 301-262-1917 or Tonyy@Juno.com. Tony is also looking for help to man the Survivor's Assistance table at the FARfest.

**Scholarship Committee** - The committee is in the process of collecting pictures and biographies of this years winners.

**ARRL Report** — At the ARRL Board of Directors meeting, a proposal for license restructuring was voted on and finally approved by the board. It was noted that the proposal was not unanimously approved.

**FARFest** — The FARfest committee held a meeting before the FAR trustees meeting. All is progressing well according to FARfest committee chairman Al Brown (KZ3AB). Tony Young announced that he is looking for clubs to volunteer for gate duty starting at 1200 EDT on Saturday September 12 through to 1400 EDT on Sunday September 13. Please contact Tony at home 301-262-1917 or e-mail at Tonyy@Juno.com. Tony would like to have a list of all volunteers by August 31 so that he can properly schedule everyone.

**Old Business**: Hugh Katz (KB3TB) had asked about a progress report on the project by Goddard Amateur Radio Club supporting a club station at Duval High School. The disposition of the project was unknown at the time. An inquiry to the Goddard Club would be made.

**New Business**: Pat Kilroy(WD8LAQ) made a presentation to the FAR trustees in attendance for support of the SimSat project. In short, this project is a series of high-altitude balloon flights with experiments for local schools, NASA has provided Pat with a $3000 grant from their education fund. Pat's proposal is for financial support from FAR for equipment to provide a crossband repeater for amateur use on the flights, in the amount of approx. $1000. The funds would go toward the purchase of two(2) Kenwood TH-79A handheld transceivers, one(1) BT-9 alkaline case, and one(1) PB-33 high-capacity NiCad battery. It was decided that the first of two votes would be taken at the next FAR trustees meeting. Pat encouraged all trustees to check out his web page for more information at, (http://garc.gsfc.nasa.gov/~simsat).

**Announcements**: Historical Electronics Museum ARC will be starting a class for General class license sometime in mid October.

Charles County ARC will be starting classes for Novice, Technician, and Technician Plus class

*Continued on page 41*

# Amateur Radio Training

John Forrest WZ4A
6111 Burnett St., Alexandria, VA 22310
(703)971-3905

Please send announcements for training classes and club training contacts to WZ4A at the above address. Deadline is the 25th of the 2nd month prior to the *Auto Call* publication date (e.g., 25 December for the February issue).

## Club Training Contacts

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Alexandria RC | Rich Adamy KA4GFY | (703) 644-3920 |
| Anne Arundel RC | Tony Young WA3YLO | (301) 262-1917 |
| Arlington ARC | Mike Callaham NW3V | (703) 241-5618 |
| Antietam Radio Assn. | Robert Long KD3JK | (301) 824-5132 |
| BRATS (Baltimore) | Joe Chidester W3SHZ | (410) 602-0353 |
| Baltimore ARC | HAM-TALK, BARC Voice Mail | (410) HAM-TALK x3835 |
| Central MD ARC | Jim Tilton KD3JA | (301) 552-0012 |
| Dulles ARG | Michael Weber WB8RDN | (703) 450-2304 |
| Fauquier ARA | Neil Spokes AB4YK | (540) 364-3861 |
| Frederick ARC | Hal Silverman W3HWC | (301) 831-7946 |
| Historical Electronics ARC | Rol Anders K3RA | (410) 969-0410 |
| Laurel ARC | Pud Reaver W3YD | (301) 498-6293 |
| Mid-Atlantic DX Assn. | Michael Vaia, WB8VBW | (301) 738-3861 |
| Madras | Larry Ziecheck, N3GKZ | (301) 984-6113 |
| MD Mobileers ARC | Bruce Colburn AA3KR | (410) 437-1891 |
| Montgomery ARC | Rocky Jones KC4UXO | (301) 216-5210 |
| Mt. Vernon ARC | John Forrest WZ4A | (703) 971-3905 |
| NASA/Goddard ARC | Vikki Gigante KA3PVS | (301) 249-2609 |
| Ole VA Hams ARC | Charles Dale WA4YGI | (703) 361-3091 |
| Pentagon ARC | David Boyd K9MX | (540) 659-6241 |
| St. Marys Co. ARC | Peter Butt WA3UMY | (301) 862-2214 |
| Shenandoah Val ARC | Fred Wetzel W4KRT | (540) 678-0394 |
| Southern MD ARC | Vic Curtis WA3YUV | (301) 888-1388 |
| Southern Pax ARC | Dwayne Kincaid WD8OYG | (410) 586-2177 |
| Stafford Adult Ed | Jerry Mullinix AC4HK | (540) 659-3905 |
| Sterling Park ARC | Forrest Snyder N4UTY | (703) 430-4149 |
| Tri-County ARC | John Creel WB3GXW | (301) 572-5124 |
| Vienna Wireless | Kerry Kingham, WA4BQM | (703) 691-2719 |
| Woodbridge Wireless | Jim Duffey WD4AIR | (703) 491-3170 |

# The Foundation For Amateur Radio, Inc.

*Washington, DC*

## Volunteer Examiner Cooperative

JOHN FORREST WZ4A
6111 Burnett St.
Alexandria, VA, 22310
(703) 971-3905

* Effective July 1, 1998, the General Class written exam question pool (Element 3b) will change. All books and study materials not based on this new pool will be obsolete after that date. Be sure to use study materials appropriate for the current question pool.

* Volunteer Examiners may refuse to test any applicant who fails to demonstrate to the VE's satisfaction that the memories in the applicant's calculator are empty. If you bring a calculator to an exam, please be prepared to demonstrate that your memories are empty.

* Effective January 1, 1998, the maximum FCC authorized exam fee is $6.39.

## 1998 Schedule of Examinations

| | |
|---|---|
| October 1 (Thursday) | **Martinsburg, WV**-Mid-Atlantic DX & Repeater Assn.(ARRL VEC) Pre-Registration Preferred, Walk-Ins Accepted<br>Contact: Gregory Lanham KU4AN (540)722-4792 kuan@visuallink.com<br>Alan Moeck WA2RPX (540)869-1117 Alan-Moeck@juno.com |
| October 4 (Sunday) | **Landover, MD** - DCMARC (W5YI VEC) Walk-In<br>Contact: Freddie Battle NG3G (202)546-9348 Day (301)773-2898 Night |
| October 10 (Saturday) | **Alexandria, VA** - Mt. Vernon ARC (Laurel VEC) Walk-In<br>Contact: Frank Mackey K4EC (703)455-1510 |
| | **Davidsonville, MD** - Anne Arundel Radio Club (Laurel VEC) Walk-In<br>Contact: Bob Israel WC3I (301)262-5083 |
| | **Cumberland, MD** - (Mountain ARC VEC) Walk-In<br>Contact: Leo Patterson KQ8E (304)289-3576<br>Gay Rembold W3DFW (301)724-0674 |

***Don't forget to bring your license when upgrading!!***

| | |
|---|---|
| October 11 (Sunday) | **Middletown, VA** - Winchester ARS (ARRL VEC) Walk-In<br>Contact: Alan Moeck WA2RPX (540)869-1117<br>Gregory Lanham KU4AN (540)722-4792 - KUAN@visuallink.com |
| October 17 (Saturday) | **Laurel, MD** - Laurel ARC (Laurel VEC) Pre-Registration Desirable, Limited Walk-In, Contact: John Creel WB3GXW (301)572-5124 after 6 PM |
| | **Fredericksburg, VA** - Fredericksburg VE Team (ARRL VEC) Walk-In<br>Contact: Carolyn Cavanagh AC4SK (540)373-7076 |
| October 24 (Saturday) | **Towson, MD** - Baltimore ARC (Laurel VEC) Pre-Registration Requested, Walk-Ins Accepted<br>Contact: Frank Stone AC3P (410)Ham-Talk mailbox TEST (8378) |
| October 25 (Sunday) | **Hagerstown, MD** - Antietam Radio Assn (ARRL VEC) Pre-Registration Suggested - Limited Walk-Ins<br>Contact: Bob Long KD3JK (301)824-5132, rjlong@erols.com |
| October 27 (Tuesday) | **Annapolis, MD** - Maryland Mobileers ARC (Laurel VEC)<br>Pre-Registration Requested - Limited Walk-In,<br>Contact: Lois Turner KA3VVQ (410)647-4178 |
| November 1 (Sunday) | **Landover, MD** - DCMARC (ARRL VEC) Walk-In<br>Contact: Freddie Battle NG3G (202)546-9348 Day (301)773-2898 Night |
| | **Elkins, WV** - (Mountain ARC VEC) Walk-In<br>Contact: Walter Corley KF8SX (304)637-0506 |
| November 5 (Thursday) | **Martinsburg, WV**-Mid-Atlantic DX & Repeater Assn.(ARRL VEC)<br>Pre-Registration Preferred, Walk-Ins Accepted<br>Contact: Gregory Lanham KU4AN (540)722-4792 kuan@visuallink.com<br>Alan Moeck WA2RPX (540)869-1117 Alan-Moeck@juno.com |
| | **Warrenton, VA** - Fauquier ARA (ARRL VEC)<br>Contact: Neil Spokes AB4YK (540)363-3861 |

| | |
|---|---|
| November 8 (Sunday) | **Middletown, VA** - Winchester ARS (ARRL VEC) Walk-In<br>Contact: Alan Moeck WA2RPX (540)869-1117,<br>Gregory Lanham KU4AN (540)722-4792, KUAN@visuallink.com |
| November 9 (Monday) | **Cockeysville, MD** - Baltimore ARC (Laurel VEC)<br>Pre-Registration Required<br>Contact: Frank Stone AC3P (410)HAM-TALK mailbox TEST (8378) |
| November 14 (Saturday) | **Alexandria, VA** - Mt. Vernon ARC (Laurel VEC) Walk-In<br>Contact: Frank Mackey K4EC (703)455-1510 |
| | **Davidsonville, MD** - Anne Arundel Radio Club (Laurel VEC)<br>Walk-In, Contact: Bob Israel WC3I (301)262-5083 |
| | **Sterling, VA** - Dulles Amateur Radio Group (ARRL VEC)<br>Contact: Mike Weber WB8RDN (703)450-2304 |
| November 21 (Saturday) | **Laurel, MD** - Laurel ARC (Laurel VEC)<br>Pre-Registration Desirable, Limited Walk-In<br>Contact: John Creel WB3GXW (301)572-5124 after 6 PM |
| | **Manchester, MD** - Hanover Area Hamming Assn. (ARRL VEC)<br>Pre-Registration Preferred - Walk-Ins Accepted<br>Contact: Ed Davis KE2FN (410)239-8488 |
| November 24 (Tuesday) | **Glen Burnie, MD** - Maryland Mobileers ARC (Laurel VEC)<br>Pre-Registration Requested - Limited Walk-In<br>Contact: Jerry Gavin NU3D (410)761-1423 |
| December 3 (Thursday) | **Martinsburg, WV**-Mid-Atlantic DX & Repeater Assn.(ARRL VEC)<br>Pre-Registration Preferred, Walk-Ins Accepted, Contact:<br>Gregory Lanham KU4AN (540)722-4792, kuan@visuallink.com,<br>Alan Moeck WA2RPX (540)869-1117, Alan-Moeck@juno.com |
| December 6 (Sunday) | **Landover, MD** - DCMARC (W5YI VEC) Walk-In<br>Contact: Freddie Battle NG3G (202)546-9348 Day<br>(301)773-2898 Night |

# TRAINING CLASSES

**NOVICE/TECHNICIAN CLASS**: Free Amateur Radio Class. The Laurel Amateur Radio Club (LARC) will offer a free Novice/Technician license preparation class. This entry level license does not require any knowledge of morse code. The 10 week class will be held at 384 Main Street on Monday evenings from 7 - 9pm starting on September 21. FCC examinations will be given at the last class, also at no charge. The recommended text for the course is Now You're Talking (3rd Edition, 1997) which is available from the ARRL or at the class. It is recommended that students under the age of 14 take the class with an adult partner. Pre-registration is required, for more information or to register contact Pud (W3YD) at 301-498-6293/ preaver@erols.com or Jim (WI3N) at 301-725-6829/ jcross3@juno.com. The LARC web page is located at http://www.webtrek.com/md/larc.

**NOVICE/TECHNICIAN CLASS**: Sponsored by the Baltimore County Board of Education, Office of Adult Education and the Baltimore Amateur Radio Club (BARC). Monday evenings, September 14 to November 2, 1998 (8 weeks). Time is 7 to 9 PM. Fee is estimated to be $30. Call (410)887-4064 to register or for information on the Adult Education programs. For additional information about this class or BARC, call (410)HAM-TALK, mailbox 3835.

**ELMER COURSE:** The Mt.Vernon Amateur Radio Club will present an Elmer Course to help new hams become more proficient in the hobby by transitioning from license exam study to station building and actual amateur operation. If you have questions, problems, or are feeling left out of the amateur radio community, perhaps we can help. The course will meet from 10:30AM to 2:00PM on the fourth Saturday of each month from January thru December at the Mt. Vernon Government Center on Parkers Lane in the Mt. Vernon area of Alexandria, VA. For information contact: Frank Lempicki, AA4ZS at (703)971-9304 or Chuck Haser, W3HSW at (703)660-6623.

**GENERAL CLASS UPGRADE CLASS**: The Historical Electronics Museum Amateur Radio Club is conducting a training program for amateurs wishing to upgrade to General Class. Theory and code will be covered. The classes will be from 6:30 to 9:30PM on Tuesday evenings and will run from 20 September to 15 December 1998. Location is the museum in Linthicum, MD (near BWI airport) adjacent to the BWI Merriott Hotel at the intersection of West Nursery Road and Elkins Landing Road. The course is open to all licensed amateurs at no charge. For information and registration, contact Rol Anders K3RA at (410)796-4792.

**NOVICE/TECHNICIAN CLASS**: Sponsored by the Maryland Mobileers Amateur Radio Club - A Novice/Tech Class will be held starting October 6th, (Tuesday Nights) for seven weeks with testing be conducted on the eighth week. It will be held at the HEMARC (Historical Electronics Museum Amateur Radio Club) located on 1745 West Nursery Road, Linthicum, MD. For more information contact Bruce Colburn, AA3KR, 410-437-1891.

***Don't forget to bring your license when upgrading!!***

# Volunteer Examiner Cooperative

## EXAM FEES:

* Check for appropriate exam fee. Fees and modes of payment for individual VECs and exam teams may vary.
* ARRL VEC exams cost $6.35
* Laurel VEC exams are free
* Mountain VEC exams are free
* W5YI VEC exams cost $6.35

## BRING TO EXAM:

* Picture identification
* Completed FCC form 610 (most VE teams will supply at exam)
* Original and a copy of current FCC amateur radio license
* Originals and copies of all active certificates of successful completion of prior exams
* Exam fee (check or cash depending on VE team)

## "GRANDFATHER" CREDIT FOR ELEMENT 3B (GENERAL WRITTEN):

* If you presently hold a Technician class license which was first issued prior to March 21, 1987, you may be grandfathered for Element 3B (General class written exam) by presenting the original and a copy of the license dated prior to March 21, 1987 to the VE team. It is your responsibility to prove that you are entitled to grandfathering. Do not lose your original license!

## RULES FOR SUBMISSIONS TO THE FAR VOLUNTEER EXAMINER COOPERATIVE:

1. All submissions must be in writing
2. Date and day of week must be specified for each exam date
3. Point of contact and phone number must be specified
4. Sponsor and location must be specified
5. VEC must be specified
6. Exam dates up to 12 months in advance will be accepted
7. Deadline for submission is 25th of the 2nd month prior to publication date (e.g., January 25 for March issue)

## Anne Arundel Radio Club

**Meetings:** 8 PM 1st and 3rd Thursdays, Davidsonville Family Recreation Center, Queen Anne Bridge & Wayson Roads off MD Rt. 214 near Annapolis.
**On the air:** 2030 Thursdays when there is no club meeting on 147.705/105. Tuesdays at 2030 local time on 28.410. Wednesdays at 2000 on 444.400. The Chesapeake Weather & Traffic Net on 147.705/105 at 1100 and 1500 every weekend day and public holiday from April 1 to November 15. MSN (Maryland Slow Net) every evening at 1930 on 3.7170 MHz.
**Address:** P.O. Box 308, Davidsonville, MD 21035.
**Information:** Margaret (Holly) Bevan, 410-923-0229.

Guest speakers Herman/WK3P and Lois/KA3VVQ Turner gave an enlightening program on the FISTS CW Club at the August 13th program meeting. The FISTS Club, the active chapter of the International Morse Preservation Society, was started ten years ago to further the use of CW, encourage newcomers to use CW and to engender friendships among members. Membership has grown steadily. Each member receives a number. The organization has a newsletter called "The Keynote", it has its own QSL Bureau to clear contacts between active FISTS members only and it conducts contests, special events, cw nets, etc.

About two dozen volunteers, coordinated by Rob Levine/W3RUM, reported for duty at 6:15 AM on Sunday morning August 30th to furnish communications for the Annapolis Striders annual 10-mile run around Annapolis. There were about 4300 runners and, except for a couple minor incidents, everything went smoothly.

At the clubhouse on August 8th, Bob Israel/WC3I, Charles Tiemeyer/W3RMD and Oscar Ramsey/NV3G gave two persons six tests. One test was passed with one upgrade. The other members of the testing team were Harlan Ray, III/AA3FE, Harold (Ham) Molz/N3FDH, Robert Kammer/N3POX, Bettye Tiemeyer/K3VRZ and Holly Bevan/N3MB. The next testing session will be on October 10th.

Congratulations to Michael Banz who has upgraded to Extra and changed his call from KB3CDH to AA3RL. Paul Bowling, formerly N3WNY, is now W4ATN.

73, Holly/N3MB

## Antietam Radio Association

**Meetings:** First and Third Tuesday of the month at 8 p.m. in the Conference Room at the Washington County Regional Airport, Showalter Road, Hagerstown, Maryland.
**Mailing Address**: P.O. Box 52, Hagerstown, MD. 21741
**Nets:** Tuesday 7 p.m. 146.940 MHz.; Wednesday 7 p.m. 447.975 MHz.; Thursday 7 p.m. 147.090 MHz.
**Repeaters:** 147.09+ and 146.94 -.
**Information:** Donnie Sue Mulligan/KB3AOO (301) 582-2984

The ARA had our Field Day '98 on Saturday, June 27 and Sunday, June 28, at the Allegheny Power Corporate Headquarters, Downsville Pike, Hagerstown. Some members were there for some of the 24 hours of operation using emergency power, some camped, and we have some bonus points to add to our regular points. We had media coverage, even though Channel 25 didn't show up until the last few minutes of operations on Sunday, we were still on the air.

Jack Willock/W3NHR was on Channel 25 on Friday, June 26 with Mark Kraham/WB8ZLQ (Mark works at Channel 25) for "Today in the

# The Columbia Amateur Radio Association

## Presents its 22nd Annual

# *CARA HAMFEST*

Sunday **October 4, 1998** 8:00 AM to 3:30 PM

Howard Count Fairgrounds

*** Computers - Amateur Radio - Electronics ***

**Amateur Exams will be given at no charge**

**Hospitality Area - Bring the Family**

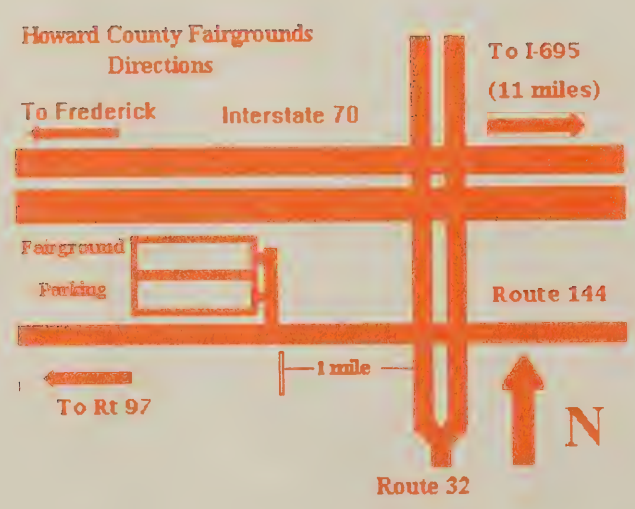
40,000 Sq. Ft. of Indoor Display Area

Large Outdoor Tailgating Area

Covered Areas for Inclement Weather

Great food and Refreshments On Site

Many Dealers - Computers & Ham Radio




**Admission Donation:** $5.00 per person
Unlicensed Spouse and Children free!

**Tailgating Donation:** $10.00 per space
(Includes one General Admission per space)
Tailgating spaces will be available on a first come first serve basis the day of the Hamfest

**Table Donation:** 1-4 $20.00 ea.
5 or more $18.00 ea.

**Call (410) 796-2587 for Table reservations.**
***To guarantee your space send your check now!***

**Talk In:** 146.52 Simplex, 147.135/735, 222.32/223.92 Repeaters

For Hamfest information write:
CARA Hamfest Committee P.O. Box 911 Columbia, MD 21044

**** After Sept. 15th, please phone 410-796-2587 prior to mailing ****

*Visit our Web page at http://www.clark.net/pub/jrmassi/caranews.html*

9th Annual

# Mason-Dixon

# Computer & Hamfest

## *Sunday - October 25, 1998*

## Carroll County Ag Center
## Westminster, MD

**Admission**

- **General/Tailgaters/Vendors**
- Donation $5.00 (children under 18 free)
- **Tailgate Space** - $5 per 12' space
- 6:00 AM Vendor and tailgating setup
- 8:00 AM General Admission

**Inside 8' Tables**

- $15 if *prepaid* by 10/1/98
- $20 on day of Hamfest

- **MD State law requires Vendors to collect Sales Tax**

**Advance Table Registration**
(Reserved Tables MUST be PREPAID)

- **Mail to:**
  Mason-Dixon Computer & Hamfest
  P.O. Box 763
  Hanover, PA 17331
- **Or contact:**
  George Johns, N3JKY
  Phone: (717) 633-6641
  EMail: gjohns@sun-link.com

*Rain or Shine!*

*Hundreds of Tailgating spaces Available!*

**VE Exams - Preregistration Requested**

- **Mail to:** Bill Wolfgang, NZ3J
  9 Kensington Drive
  Littlestown, PA 17340
- **or call:**
  Bill Wolfgang, NZ3J - (717) 359-7090
  Pat Stump, WW3U - (717) 632-4237

**On-Site Registration**

- Begins promptly at 9:00 AM
- No admittance after 10:00 AM

**Testing conducted at the**
*Carroll County Fire Training Center*
1345 Washington Rd.
Westminster, MD
(across from Kate Wagner Road)

**Required for VE Exam**

- Original FCC license plus one copy
- Two forms of ID (one w/ photo)
- Any CSCE's
- Exam fee, $6.35 cash only

## *Talk-in: CCARC Repeater 145.410 MHz.*

## *FREE* Commercial Radio Checks

**COME HUNGRY!**

**We have great food, prepared once again by the MIDWAY FIRE COMPANY**

Check out ***http://www.qis.net/~k3pzn*** for late breaking information

*Sponsored by The Carroll County and Penn-Mar Amateur Radio Clubs*

Valley", 8:55 a.m. Jack looked like he belonged there and did a good spot for the ARA. Thanks Jack!

The MD/DC QSO PARTY was held on August 8th and 9th The Chairman, Page Pyne/WA3EOP said he already has several logs and is looking forward to meeting with the committee, which include Al Brown/KZ3AB, Gary Swales/K3CWC, John Smith/N3TDN, and Tim Keener/N3VGS, to see how many contacts were made. Hope everyone had FUN.

We will have a Disaster Drill at the airport on September 26. Charlie Anderson/NF3X backed by Jack Willock were at the airport on July 22 for a meeting, getting ready for the Disaster Drill.

Sunday, October 18, will be the SACA (Smithsburg Area Church Association) Crop Walk at 1 PM at the Smithsburg Community Park. Will need several radio operators to man the stations. We always have a good time every year doing the SACA Crop Walk, meet several new friends, and see some of our old ones.

The Antietam Radio Association and the Valley Amateur Television Society are hosting a breakfast on the last Saturday of every month at the Junction 08 Restaurant, Noland Drive, Hagerstown Come and eat breakfast, talk ham talk, and get to know the members of the ARA and the VATS.

School will start August 30, 1998. Watch out for the children. We love them and they are our future HAMS.

Until next time...73, Donnie Sue/KB3AOO

Reminder - all submissions for
AUTO GALL
are due no later than
the 1st of the month prior to the
month of publication!!

## Arlington Amateur Radio Club

**Meeting:** Third Tuesday of each month, 7:30 P.M., Red Cross building, 4333 Arlington Blvd., Arlington, VA. Nonmembers welcome!
**Net:** Tuesdays (except meeting nights), 7:30 P.M., 144.87/145.47 Mhz FM.
**Information:** Mike Callaham, NW3V @ W3TOM, callaham@tmn.com, (703) 241-5618.
**WWW:** http://www.geocities.com/CapeCanaveral/Lab/4306/

### September Program: Software Radios

The September 15 meeting will feature Activities Chairman Mike, NW3V, holding forth on the topic of software radios. A software radio could be as simple as an LO and DBM (a la KK7B's R1) and a digital signal processing (DSP) system, such as a PC sound card, for IF or AF filtering and demodulation. It could be programmed to transmit and receive anything from spread spectrum voice to Pactor and SSTV. There is a great deal of military and commercial interest in software radios, and an issue of the IEEE's Journal of Selected Areas in Communications (JSAC) is devoted to the topic. Hopefully it will appear in time for Mike to crib from it. Mike will summarize the contributions of amateurs KK7B, W9GR, HB9JNX/AE4WA, SM5BSZ, 9H1JS, and others.

### August Meeting

President Jack, WA4FXX, called the meeting to order at 1958L, after lengthy discussion of a proposed Arlington County ordinance that would restrict the heights, colors, and locations of Amateur Radio and other noncommercial antennas. Others attending were members Dennis, W4PWF; Alan, KD4FRK; and Mike, NW3V; and visitors Gerry, N2RGW; Madhu, N3ZSX; and Ron Carl.

## Old Business

Dennis noted that he had submitted the Field Day report for club station W4WVP and suggested that it be published in the next Beacon.

Ron Carl's application for membership was approved. Welcome, Ron!

Arlington County ARES Emergency Coordinator KD4FRK reported on planning for Operation Rock & Roll, the exercise to be conducted by the DC Office of Emergency Preparedness on September 22 from 1000L to 1400L. The Arlington County ARES role will be to link the Arlington, Vencore, and Pentagon City hospitals. Alan reported that he had tested link quality from these sites to KI4MB/R using an HT and a quarter-wave trunk lip mounted whip antenna. He said that the Crystal City receiver site was QRT, and the Knights of Columbus site was "half deaf" as a result of a lightning strike. He estimated that it would be hard to contact the repeater from inside the hospitals. Mike noted that in a previous Emergency Medical Systems drill he had contacted the repeater system from inside the Emergency Room of what is now the Vencore Hospital using 5 watts to a half-wave whip. [P.S. The Arlington Hospital bans indoor radio transmissions.] Alan said that he had been in contact with POCs—ER nurses—at two hospitals, but had not heard from Paul Torres at the Arlington Hospital.

Alan said that there was another request for help from John Harper of the Red Cross, who wants to test the 47.42 MHz system on Saturday, August 22, at 1000L. One or two ops would be needed; he and maybe NW3V would do it. Alan noted that John Harper would be leaving the Arlington Chapter to go to Haverill, MA.

## New Business

Members introduced themselves to Madhu, N3ZSX, who said that he had not been on the air yet. Dennis, W4PFW, said that comments were due on the ARRL's Semiannual Report. Dennis said that there were clearly lots of errors in it—typos, etc. There was much discussion of what some called the "dumbing down" of license requirements, until Jack invoked cloture.

Alan announced that KA4JGD had donated a Yaesu LX-400 tube rig (TX-RX set) to the Red Cross. Alan also said that he brought (1) an unedited videotape of Joan Orvis's production (including footage of FD98 at W4WVP) for the Arlington Cable Access Channel, and (2) a videocassette of the August 8 Arlington County Council hearing on antennas. The County proposed limiting antenna height to 75 feet, limiting the site to the back yard, and requiring that the antenna or tower color match the background.

## First QSO for N3ZSX

After the close of the business meeting, Jack invited Madhu, N3ZSX, into the W4WVP shack to attempt a first contact. Madhu made two DX contacts on 20m SSB.

## Program: APRS

Mike, NW3V, demonstrated how to send Automatic Position Reporting System (APRS) reports with an ordinary packet radio rig—no GPS receiver required. He also showed how to view APRS position reports in a javAPRS applet on a World Wide Web page (www.aps.net). First he sent a position report for NW3V, then one for N3ZSX. Both positions showed up as houses, with callsigns, on the applet's Eastern USA map. Then Mike invited the few remaining stragglers into the parking lot for a demo of a Garmin GPS II handheld GPS receiver.

## FD1998 Report

The following is a recap of what we did on Field Day 1998. I have also compared it to what we did in 1997. [Our] total score for 1998 is 732 points. This is down somewhat from 1997 with a score of 996 points. The difference is due to the

lack of cw contacts on 80 meters. As you may recall, this band was DEAD for quite a while. Our class was 8D for 98 versus 4D for 97.

| Band | CW98 | CW97 | SSB98 | SSB97 | DIG98 | DIG97 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 80 | 28 | 75 | 12 | 50 | 0 | 0 |
| 40 | 54 | 66 | 13 | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| 20 | 0 | 0 | 114 | 111 | 0 | 0 |
| 15 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 22 | 11 | 0 |
| 10 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 16 | 4 | 29 |
| 220 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 440 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| SAT | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |

Dennis [W4PWF; Received July 24, 1998]
73 de Mike, NW3V, Acting Secretary

## Baltimore Amateur Radio Club

**Meetings:** Meetings: Twice monthly, 7:30 pm at IE Shop #3 of Dulaney Senior High School at 7:30 pm. -First Wednesday of the month - business meeting, Third Wednesday of the month - program.
**Repeaters:** W3FT/RPTR 146.67(-), 224.24 (-) (no PL) and 449.625(-)(PL 107.2) Note: two meter/220 Mhz. repeaters are linked.
**Club Net:** 2nd, 4th & 5th Wednesdays at 6:45 PM or after the Baltimore Traffic Net on 146.67/224.24 repeaters.
**NTS Net**: Daily at 6:30 pm on 146.670/ 224.240
**Information:** (410) HAMTALK
**Greater Baltimore Hamboree & Computerfest/Maryland State ARRL Convention information**: (410) HAM-FEST or (800) HAM-FEST.
**Club Address:** BARC, Inc., P.O. BOX 120, Reisterstown MD 21136
**Internet Address**: http://www.baltarc.com
**E-Mail Address:** info@baltarc.com

The big news of the day is certainly the licensing changes that will be taking place. The club reviewed the proposal at the August business meeting and sent a letter of support to the ARRL for their proposal.

The changes contemplated by the FCC are far-reaching and in some cases vastly different from what the current standards are. The FCC is asking for input, especially regarding CW requirements and regarding enforcement.

Everyone in the club, and indeed, all hams, are encouraged to write to the FCC to express ideas on these and other subjects covered in their document. Remember that the FCC is under the gun by Congress to simplify paperwork.

The committee for the Greater Baltimore Hamboree and Computerfest is busy planning for one of the biggest hamfests in the nation, coming up on the weekend of March 27 & 28, 1999. The hamboree is also the host to the Maryland State ARRL convention.

At the convention in 1999, we are planning to hold an induction ceremony for the Royal Order of the Wouff Hong. More information will be posted in upcoming issues of this magazine.

Please stop by The Greater Baltimore Hamboree and Computerfest (www.gbhc.org) and see the excellent pictures taken by Bryan Costin.

We had a great presentation on VLF reception by Henry Lee, KB1PE. Henry provided live demonstrations as well as taped sounds of "whistlers" created by lightning storms. This was a very well received presentation.

That is it from Charm City.

De KB3BXA
Val Purvis
Corresponding Secretary

## Charles County Amateur Radio Club

**Meeting:** General membership meeting first Friday of every month at 7:30 PM in the Charles County Government Building, Office of Emergency Preparedness (OEP), La Plata, MD. Non-members are very welcome.
**Mailing Address**: Charles County Amateur Radio Club, Inc., P.O. Box 668 White Plains, MD 20695-0668.
**Repeaters**:KA3GRW/R, 443.700+, LaPlata, W6QMN/R 145.39+ (PL 7Z), Bryantown, MD
**Repeater Trustees**: KA3GRW, Mike Tackish W7UH, Bob Adams.
**Special Event Callsign**: K3SMD
**Website:** http://www.qsl.net/k3smd.
**Information:** Mike/KA3GRW (301)609-9298 or Gary/K3GRG (301)645-7465

The Charles County Amateur Radio Club is sponsoring, and promoting, an Amateur Radio Training Class. The goal is to effectively teach the Novice through Tech Plus level. The classes start on Wednesday, October 7, 1998 and will run approximately 13 weeks. These classes will be held on Wednesday nights from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m., at the Office of Emergency Services (old OEP) on Washington Avenue in La Plata, Maryland. So, if you'd like to UPGRADE from Technician or Novice to Technician Plus, NOW is the time!!! The first 30 minutes of the class will be dedicated to learning the 5 WPM Morse code. Local directions can always be obtained on the repeater at 443.700 MHz. For additional information or to register, please contact Mr. Joe Sartori, III, at (301) 877-2048 or email him at WB3IUT@qsl.net.

### MORE FIELD DAY NEWS

Two very important club members were not correctly mentioned in a previous Auto Call article pertaining to our first ever Field Day. Rob/N2OMC and Steve/K2XLR were big contributors and we apologize for our oversight.

### CLUB MEMBER ACHIEVEMENT

JD/W3SMD recently earned a Bachelors Degree from the University of Maryland. Join us in congratulating him on his achievement.

### COME ON DOWN

Our Activities Manager, Tom/W3TOM has scheduled great speakers for our meetings in the coming months. We invite everyone to come out and join us at the monthly meetings. Vicky/N3OAD always whips up some great refreshments and that always jump starts the after meeting rag chew session.

### THERE ARE BENEFITS LIVING IN SOUTHERN MARYLAND!

Our first annual crab feast was held in Pope's Creek, Maryland on August 22, 1998. A small group gathered for consumption of Maryland's great seafood. We hope to do it again next year around the same time.

### CLUB MEMBER TRAINING

RACES training will be offered soon. Tom/W3TOM, is working closely with the folks at MEMA and in the ARRL MD/DC section to make this happen.

### NEW TOYS

Amateur Radio equipment is being procured to make permanent installations at the Charles County Office of Emergency Services. This will provide us with more flexibility in the area of emergency communications.

Until next month, 73.
Gary/K3GRG, Charles County Amateur Radio Club, Inc. PIO

## Columbia Amateur Radio Association

**Club meeting**: 4th Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m., at the Bethany United Methodist Church, Bethany Lane, Ellicott City.
**Net**: 147.135 repeater at 8:30 p.m. each Tuesday except for meeting nights.
**Repeaters**: 147.735/147.135, PL control of 156.7 (cross-linked to 222.32/223.92); 147.990/147.390 (autopatch & direct dial 911); 222.32/223.92 (cross-linked to 147.735/147.135); 443.275/448.275, and 444.475/449.475 (autopatch & direct dial 911).
**Other club stations:** HF all mode 2-meter FM 2-meter 1200 baud packet (AX.25) on 145.690.
**Information**: Bob Scarburgh, Pres - KC3EV, (410) 465-2421.
**Website:** http://www.clark.net/pub/jrmassi/caranews.html
**Mailing**: P.O. Box 911, Columbia, MD 21044

### CARA Hamfest is Ten-Four

The CARA Hamfest is on Sunday, October 4th (10-4) at the Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship, MD. This is a mile from the intersection of Interstate 70 and MD Rte. 32. Our energetic Hamfest chairman, Dave (W8AJR) will be putting the finishing touches on this year's bash as you read this, and he is expecting a good crowd.

Tailgating is on a first come/first serve basis the day of the Hamfest and there is always plenty of room. The doors open at 8:00am. So bring your old ham gear to this fest and start building your kitty for your next major purchase. VE testing will be available at no charge. More information is available by going to the CARA Homepage shown in the box above. Talk-in will be on 146.52 simplex, 147.135+ repeater (PL 156.7), and 222.32/223.92 repeater. Listen for directions and prizes. We'll plan to see you there!

### MD QSO Party

They CARA faithful turned out for the MD QSO Party on August 8-9, 1998, and this hard core team amassed over 35,000 points. Unlike Field Day, the balloon performed well in the milder winds and with the suspended J-pole operators worked 20 and 40 meters for the whole contest. We also used the tri-bander up 40 feet on the tower with the club Kenwood 440S and this gave several extra operating time on 10, 15, and 20 meters. Alan (N3AC), CARA Trustee, ran the party for the club, and under his leadership we enjoyed another successful QSO Party.

### Fall Club schedule

At our regular August meeting (8/25/98) Scott Rosenfeld (NF3I) gave a talk about the virtues of QRP (low power) operations. Scott built on the briefing at the Dayton Hamvention last May and explained the joys of QRP - like breaking through a pile-up with just a fraction of the power of the big guys or the satisfaction of building your own equipment which is a hallmark of the QRP hobbyists. He entertained us with his stories of working all neighbors with RFI as an early ham, and how that led to his quest where less is more. He is a wealth of information about this aspect of the hobby.

Now that school is back in session Bob (KC3EV) and Dave (WA3WZX) will be working on the youth program at a Howard County middle school. This has been a successful program in the past getting youngsters interested in listening and operating amateur equipment. Last year the kids were treated to Dxing with a hearing impaired school in Texas that was using a voice synthesizer. The kids thought that was pretty impressive. The September CARA meeting (9/22) topic is fox-hunting. No speaker is scheduled for October (10/27). We will be debriefing from Hamfest and preparing the winter schedule. November (11/24) is our time for electing club officers. As always guests are welcome to club meetings.

73 de Tim/N3ZXQ

## Dulles Amateur Radio Group

**On-the-air meeting**: Tuesdays at 8:00pm on the Dulles repeater
**Repeater**: N4FSC, 145.310- (near Dulles airport)
**Mail**: Dulles Amateur Radio Group, P.O. Box 5073, Herndon, VA 20172-1964
**Home Page**: www.darg.org.
**Email**: darg@darg.org.
**Club callsign**: W4DLS
**Information**: Mike Weber, WB8RDN, 703-450-2304.

The Dulles Amateur Radio Group (DARG) is a family-oriented ham radio club affiliated with the N4FSC repeater in Dulles, VA. Membership is open to all, and the club holds several social and operating events each year. Dues are $20/yr. for your entire family; members have access to the repeater's autopatch, and dues include a 1 year subscription or renewal to Auto Call. All area hams are warmly invited to join our information net on Tuesday evenings at 8:00pm on the N4FSC repeater, 145.310-.

### Membership Drive

The Dulles Amateur Radio Group this month begins its annual membership drive. All DARG memberships expire on December 31st each year, and so we begin the process of working to ensure that everyone has ample opportunity to perform the important (some say indispensable) task of renewing their affiliation.

### Phil Sperry (KF4ZTO)

DARG would like to welcome its newest member: ten year old Phil Sperry (KF4ZTO). Phil is the first member of his family to earn his ticket, doing so at DARG's August Amateur Radio License examination session. Seventeen days later, Mike (KD4ITN), DARG's Net Manager, added Phil's call to his list of check-ins for the August 25th Tuesday evening net. We couldn't be happier for Phil, and we are pleased that we participated in Phil's first net.

Phil's membership was awarded at the recent DARG trustee meeting, in recognition of the effort expended to earn his license, and the value that Phil has placed on his new hobby. Nice job, Phil.

### Jason Smart (KF4ZSH)

In what we're sure is a trend, DARG is particularly pleased to welcome Jason Smart (KF4ZSH) to the Group. Jason is another young man notable for recently having earned his ticket, no doubt with the help of his dad Jim (N1RQW) and mom Patricia (N1RQY). We're pleased to welcome Jason, Jim and Patricia to DARG's membership, and we hope to hear from them often on the Dulles N4FSC (145.31 -600) repeater. (There's certain to be a well-worn copy of Auto Call around the Smart home each month.)

And in what turned out to be a busy month for Bill (W3EMH), our membership trustee, we warmly welcome two more members: Alan Skutt (KE2HT) and Alice Kottmyer (AB6WK). When you hear Alan and Alice on the repeater, don't forget to say hello. Welcome aboard!

### Sterling Fest

Among the upcoming events in which the Dulles Amateur Radio Group will participate include Sterling Fest (October 10th), where we will act in support of the Sterling Park Amateur Radio Club (SPARC). Sterling Fest celebrates Sterling, Virginia with parades and festivities; and SPARC and DARG will be present, promoting Amateur Radio.

### Holiday party and Raffle

DARG's holiday party will be held on December 12th, from 6:00 to 9:00 PM. All members are welcome, and this year's raffle will once again

include several items of Ham radio gear that, as you are read this, are being assembled by skilled elves with soldering irons, large hammers and a band saw with a dull blade. Perhaps you will be the lucky winner of a thirty-seven pound HT (batteries not included). (Fearing the worst, we've already made plans to purchase new equipment in the next few weeks. We'll describe the prizes next month.)

### The Journey

Mike (WB8RDN), with the support of DARG's trustees, is contacting a local middle school in order to determine what role that DARG can play in creating and supporting a student Amateur Radio Club. We're just beginning this process, and we envision a new group of newly licensed young men and women who will come to appreciate the opportunities that Amateur Radio has to offer those who pursue the experience. Join us in this journey.

Finally..., In parting, don't forget our Tuesday evening net each week at 8:00 PM on the N4FSC repeater (145.31 -600). And, of course, DARG's website http://www.darg.org, where you can read about these and other DARG events. Finally, don't forget DARG's November 14th examination session, where all grades of license exams will be offered. (Wanna upgrade?)

And that's it for now.
73 de Bob/AB3H


Chapter X

Society of Wireless Pioneers

THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF PROFESSIONAL RADIO TELEGRAPHERS

For Information Call
(703) 536-9537


## Green Mountain Repeater Association

**Repeaters:** *146.61 Cheverly, *146.88 Greenbelt. *(Autopatch).
**Information**: Don Tinari, W3RYQ, (301) 262-7062.
**Mail**: P.O. Box 523, Bowie, MD. 20718.
**E-mail:** mgreen@erols.com.
**Socials:** Luncheon, 1st Saturday of each month at 11:30 A.M., Laurel Centre Indoor Mall Eatery.
**Nets:** 146.88 - Old Gent's Net, 9:30 A.M. and 6:30 P.M. every day. Washington Adventist Amateur Radio Association Net, every Thursday at 9:30 P.M.

### ED WALKER, N3HFT, RECORDS FOR GMRA:

Popular radio celebrity, Ed Walker, N3HFT, graciously recorded an approximate 1 minute sound byte for GMRA. The recording can be heard by identifying and entering touchtones *400 on the 61 or 88 repeaters. The byte provides information about the Association and it's repeaters. By the way, Ed can be heard every Sunday, 7-10 p.m., on National Public Radio station, WAMU, 88.5 mhz, hosting old time radio. A very popular show.

### BICYCLE MOBILE BIG TIME:

I was monitoring the 61 repeater one day during the middle of August when Dave, N3ICN/bicycle mobile came on looking for a contact. Now there isn't anything unusual about that, except that Dave had just biked into town from Jacksonville, Florida en route to Nova Scotia, Canada! He was pulling a small trailer bristling with antennas, filled with radio/computer equipment, personal affects, and using a recumbent bike. Total weight including the driver, 600 pounds! Dave is 44 years of age, and has biked 30 of the 50 states including Hawaii. I

envy his travels but not the 600 pounds, hi. While in the area, Dave was also able to talk to New Zealand and Hawaii via the GMRA Internet/ repeater connection while peddling down the roads.

### FCC PROPOSALS:

FCC proposed changes to the Amateur license structure, among other proposals, were published in August. Since the FCC has asked for comments by December 1 1998, I believe that their decisions may very well be based on a majority input. So, if you have any opinions on the proposal, pro or con, make them known. Check the various amateur radio magazines which should include more in-depth information, or visit the FCC WEB page. Electronic comments will be accepted. See http://www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html for more information. This is an extremely important issue for the entire amateur community, not to be ignored.

### CHANGE IN MAILING DATE FOR MANUAL:

In order to save the membership money, it has been decided by the Board of Directors to mail out the new and revised GMRA Operating and By Law Manual at the beginning of the new year to all renewed and new members. The mailing will also contain a new engraved code card, roster, autodial slot number, (if requested), voice mail user number (for private mail messages) and appropriate information for contacting each Officer, Control Station and other applicable representatives.

### TENTATIVE DATE FOR GMRA ANNUAL BUSINESS/LUNCHEON:

The tentative date for the GMRA Annual business/luncheon is Saturday, December 5th 1998, 1130, at The Old Country Buffet, Laurel, Maryland. Confirmation will be sent to each member by regular mail in early November. Please plan to attend.

73 de Murray K3BEQ

### Historical Electronics Museum Amateur Radio Club

**Meetings:** Second Thursday of each month, 5:30 PM,In the Historical Electronics Museum, West Nursery Road and Elkridge Landing Roads. Linthicum, Maryland (Next to BWI Marriott Hotel).
**Info:** Nick Yokanovich, N3YVW, (410) 544-5736. **Club Station:** W3GR.
**Mail:** P.O. Box 746, Mail Stop 4015, Baltimore , MD 21203.
**Web Page**: http://members.aol.com/wk3p/se.htm
**Street address:** 1745 W. Nursery Rd., Linthicum, MD 21090.

### Maryland DC QSO Party

The first ever W3GR club participation in this annual event was only a three hour burst which netted 98 points and a bunch of interesting contacts. We didn't trounce the club rankings, but it was a fun toe in the water for the club and all who operated.

### The ARRL License Restructuring

A spirited but inconclusive debate was held on the FCC/ARRL restructuring dance now in progress. The only truly clear message was from the CW advocates - "They can do anything they want, but don't take away our CW frequencies." In a club that DX hounds, CW buffs, Satellite devotees, Traffic and emergency service types, Digital people, Microwave and ATV affectionatos, low band dwellers and representatives of most other aspects of ham radio there are many opinions of how restructuring should be done. A copy of the FC-98-143 was handed out to all present. To be continued . . . .

## New Training Class

The next HEMARC training class will be for up grading to General Class. It will be conducted by Rol Anders, K3RA at the museum. Code and theory will be covered. The class will be held beginning on September 29, 1998 through December 9,1998 every Thursday night from 6:30PM to 9:30PM. There is no fee and all licensed amateurs are invited. For information and registration call Rol on 410-796-4792.

73 de Chip W4PBG

## Loudoun Amateur Radio Group

**Meetings:** Third Saturday of every month (except Nov/Dec meeting; check with club contact for specific date) 8:30 A.M. at El Ranch Plus Restaurant, Purcellville, VA. (Monitor 147.48 Mhz simplex.)
**Club Station:** K4LRG
**Net:** LARG 10 Meter Net, Sundays at 8:00 P.M. local on 147.48 Mhz; Commuter Net, mornings and evenings during the week on 147.48 Mhz FM.
**Mailing:** P.O. Box 1004, Purcellville, VA 20134
**Info:** Gary Quinn, NC4S, 540-882-3017 or Norm Styer, AI2C, 540-228-2584
**Web Site**: http://www.micro-neil.com/k4lrg

## August Meeting Highlights:

Norm, AI2C, club vice-president, conducted the August meeting in the absence of Gary, NC4S, the president.

Paul, N4PD, talked about the upcoming radio classes which will start on September 10th at the Public Safety Building in Leesburg, behind Peebles' Department Store. Flyers have been put up in various locations around the county. The teachers are all anxious to start and are hoping for a good turnout. Anyone who is interested in attending the classes should contact Paul at 703-771-9284 or John, W4AU, at 540-338-4620.

The club is making plans to make antennas and attenuators from kits to have for future fox hunts. Both will be built in Gary's, NC4S's, barn in November. Sounds like a nice club project.

Norm, AI2C, talked about having all interested club members subscribe to a reflector so that everyone could keep abreast of club activities. Pete, KF4HCW, continues to maintain a club web site and currently has added 3 new links to the server. Check them out. Yea Pete! Though the club is communicating electronically by radio and computer, there's just nothing like personal contact! So hope to see you all at the next club meeting.

73, DE KE4RTP

## The Maryland Apple Dumpling Radio Amateur Society, Inc.

**Meetings:** 2nd and 4th Thursdays - 7:00 P.M. St. Paul's Church, 10401 Armory Avenue, Kensington, Maryland 20895.
**Clubhouse**:MADRAS Clubhouse,11800 Coakley Circle, Rockville, MD 20852
**Nets:** 1st and 3rd Thursdays at 9:00 P.M. on 145.45 MHz (PL-5A).
**Repeaters:** 444.100/449.100 MHz (PL-2A), 145.45/144.85 MHz (PL-5A).
**WWW Address:** http://mvhsl.mbhs.edu/~fwright/MADRAS.html
**Mailing:** P. O. Box 2468, Wheaton, MD 20902
**Information:** Leo Boberschmidt KA3TGY (301)946-3738, Jean Blacik N3PLC (301) 984-6114.

We wish to thank all of you who have already sent in your dues for the 1998-1999 season.

MADRAS has finally received their new club

badges printed up by HomeGrown Graphics. The badges look great and everyone seems pleased with the way they turned out.

The Far East Restaurant was once again the setting for our annual End of Summer dinner. There was quite a gathering of members, spouses and friends on Thursday, August 20th. As usual, the food was superb and we sampled everyone's special dish. Most of us just rolled out to our cars at the end of the evening - FULL, CONTENT and HAPPY.

With vacations over, school in session and everyone back to routine days, hopefully we will have more check-ins on our Thursday Nite Net.

Please get in touch with Leo W3LEO if you are interested in participating in the Jamboree On The Air special event with the Boy Scouts in October. You can reach him at 301-946-3738 or e-mail him at leob@erols.com.

Be sure to check the November issue of Auto Call which will have the information on our Labor Day at St. Paul's event, plus the Ham Radio Demonstration at Kensington Park Library.

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!!!

73 .... Jean-N3PLC

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## Metropolitan Communications Network Radio Club, Inc.

**Meetings:** Quarterly, Second Sunday of the month at 13:30 p.m. Place TBA
**Repeater:** 52.250 IN/53.350 Out.
**Net:** AM Coffee net Sunday 9:00 AM on 50.400
**Information:** 6608 N. 18th St. Arlington, VA 22205

On Sunday. July 12. the Metropolitan Communication Network had a Picnic-Meeting at the QTH of Joe K3UAL in Cheverly, Md. Attendance was light but all who attended enjoyed the outing very much. We were informed by our Secretary that we have a new member Patric Brown N3WLU. Let's all give him a big Welcome.

Bron N3AGB informs the club that the 6 meter Repeater 52.250IN/53.3500UT is up and well.

Present at the Picnic was Bob Sporn WA3GGO. Bob is 88 years young and runs the 6 meter Net on Sunday mornings. This has been a task he performs for the MCN for some 10 years. One of most active members Bob was Secretary for many years. During World War II Bob was in the Field Artillery stationed in Europe. He was a translator for the Company Commanders. He speaks 4 languages and some Biblical Hebrew. He is a member of the Quarter Century Wireless Association. Bob and his XYL enjoying traveling to Florida every year to visit family and friends.

Another guest was John W3OJ who is a regular check-in on the 6 meter Sunday Morning Coffee Net. John is conducting a Radio Class for beginners at the Martin Luther King Library. For additional information call him at 301 953-9273.

73's Joe K3UAL

## The Mid-Atlantic DX and Repeater Association

**Meetings:** Rotating locations among Hagerstown MD, Frederick MD, Martinsburg WV and Gaithersburg MD.
**Net:** Thursday evenings at 1930 local on 147.06.
**4 State10M net**: Wednesdays at 2000 local on 28.315.
**Repeaters:** Frederick MD: 147.06, 224.20, 448.125; Martinsburg WV: 147.345.
**Mailing:** 230 North Potomac St., Suite 2A, Hagerstown MD 21740
**Information:** Voice BBS (301) 416-8447 and (301) 473-4151.
**Web Page:** http://www.qsl.net/madra
**E-Mail:** madra@juno.com

OK, we've really got the Repeater part down pat now, so what we need to do next is to push the effort on the DX part. What about repeaters, you say? Just pick up your HT and try us out.

Using our good intake of cash from SwetFest98, plus some substantial contributions from our (usual) supporting members, we fielded a team of stalwart volunteers at the Frederick repeater site. Starting early in the morning on 19 August, The Usual Suspects assembled at the site and, with the aid of a commercial and somewhat costly bucket lift, made a series of major changes in the repeaters and their antenna systems.

After the old antennas were brought down, new antennas for 147.06 and 448.125 were installed, along with new runs of 7/8" Heliax. The antenna for 224.20 was cleaned and realigned, then re-installed with connections to its new Heliax feed. Antennas to link the repeaters with remote sites at Brunswick, Maryland, and Martinsburg, West Virginia, were also installed.

As a result of all this hard work, Rockville is now a full quieting location for HT users on 2M and the 220 repeater's performance has been similarly enhanced. The 440 repeater still needs to come off the bench and make the trip to the hilltop as this is written but should be running fine by the time you get this edition of Auto Call.

The names and calls of the team that carried this out are the same ones you've seen in this column so often in the past. Trouble is, if a list gets put in here it might not include all the workers so this has been written taking the coward's approach - by listing none of the workers, none can be left out. S'all right, they've all been listed before.

In addition, it's important to note that S&S Engineering of Smithsburg, Maryland, our very own local builder and purveyor of fine-grade Ham equipment, assisted us with some technical bench work before the repeater team ascended the hill. Recognizing the help that S&S gave us, MADRA wants to say "thanks" right out here in public.

Bench work on repeaters for installation atop Backbone Mountain in Western Maryland is also underway. Antennas are needed for that location and for the planned remote site in Rockville. Then we will be on our way to having one of the most impressive repeater systems to be found anywhere. Each day the rush hour nets seem to pick up a new op or two who's discovered our improved coverage.

Of course, all of you who made it to FARFest saw our Hospitality Team dashing around on the golf cart, again. If you worked the setup tasks or the special event station or the admission tasks at the gates then you were among our (we hope) satisfied customers. Thanks to FAR for bankrolling the effort and funding the tools we needed to keep the fearless volunteers well fed and unthirsty.

So, as has been said in the past, be sure to take a look at our WebSite. There you can pick up info about MADRA's special events and about our regular monthly dinner meetings. If you get AutoCall about the first of the month, there is still time to volunteer to help at Brunswick's Railroad

Days Festival 3-4 October. Bring the family, donate a couple of hours of public service support, and enjoy the Festival. If your AutoCall came too late, be sure to keep Railroad Days in mind for 1999.

73 DE N2CSQ/3

## Pentagon Amateur Radio Club

**Meetings**: Second Wednesday of the month at 1200 noon in the club station (The Pentagon, Room 5B272).
**Mailing Address:** Pentagon Amateur Radio Club, P. O. Box 47063, Washington, DC 20050-7063
**E rnail:** K4AF@hotmai1.com
**Repeater:** 444.55 (+) PL 88.5 Hz
**Telephone:** (703) 693-1943 (voice mail)
**Information**: Terry J. Broussard, N5QWA, (O) (202) 767-5597 or (H) (703) 750-2834 or TJBroussard@email.msn.com; Marvin Meinders, NØGTV, (O) (703) 697-5100 / (H) (703) 815-7711 / Harry Rensel, KF4CFZ, (O) (703) 697-6031.

### NEWSFLASH: K4AF repeater returns to the Air!

For those of you who tried to "kerchunk" our repeater, you may have been surprised to find it operational. Following a lengthy renovation at our host facility, the K4AF UHF repeater was returned to the air on Tuesday, 1 Sept.

Needless to say we are all quite pleased to have it on the air, providing coverage to the Pentagon compound, as well as the district. Give us a call on 444.55 (+), with PL 88.5. The ICOM RP-3010 Repeater, Cel Wave Filters, Spectrum 100 watt amplifier and pre-amp returns significant capability to the PARC for local events in and around the Pentagon. Special thanks to our host club at the National Communications Center for their support in this endeavor.

Following on last month's progress reports of sorts, here's an update: Our FT-1000 (HF) remains out for repair at the Yaesu factory. Turns out it blew a few transistors over the years, thus requires substantial repair. We will keep you posted as this develops. Bottom line: the treasury reports funds are limited and the repair may have to be delayed.

To support the rigs, we are in need of major antenna repair. Turns out that we had a few coax lines damaged over the years as well, thus rendering them inoperative. Some just need replacing, while others are a bit more involved and will require rotator lines as well. Again, I am looking for a project leader on this to coordinate the repairs.

In a related subject, all members are encouraged to renew their memberships by visiting the Air Force Pentagon Recreation Services Office, 5E917, between the hours of 0900-1630. Renewal is easy: $15.00 / year. Be sure to obtain a copy of your receipt for the membership listing. To "help" you remember the club's door combination was changed. Current members can contact me for the new information. Be sure to have a receipt handy to receive the new combination. Be sure to include your current email and/or telephone number as we are rebuilding the roster to include such information. It really helps to have the email address, as I frequently send out updates through email.

And speaking of contacts, please note that my office has moved to Bolling Air Force Base. Not to be isolated, I remain available at the above contact numbers. Additionally, club officers in the Pentagon are available to assist those requiring immediate service.

In closing, I'd like to solicit the services of any "Elmers" in the local area with time to assist in multiple club projects. Opportunities exist for expertise in station upgrades, repeater operations, and general club maintenance. Interested parties can contact me for details.

73's, Terry, N5QWA

## Southern Maryland Amateur Radio Club

**Meetings:** 2nd Friday of each month at 1930 ET at the PG County Police, Clinton Station, 6707 Groveton Drive, Clinton, Maryland.
**Nets:** Tuesday at 2000 on 147.15+ Repeater; Wednesday at 2000 on 1.865 (+/-QRM); Thursday at 2000 on 28.447 USB.
**Repeater:** WA3YUV/R 147.15+, Brandywine, Md. PL 114.8, Autopatch to 911.
**Mailing Address:** P.O. Box 273, Cheltenham, Md, 20623
**Information:** Vic (WA3YUV) & Linda (KA3VNI), (301) 888-1388.
**Internet:** http://www.iscanit.com/smarc

Greetings to SMARC members and friends! As of this writing, SMARC is busy making plans to operate a Ham Radio Station at the Prince George's County Fair on September 12. Of course, by the time you read this, this operation will be long gone but hopefully not forgotten. We expect to get lots of interest from the public, and sign them up for our proposed training class (Novice/ Technician) to start on October 5, ending December 7. Several of our current SMARC leaders got their start in amateur radio by signing up at past Fair demonstrations. Pass the word, and if you have family members or friends who want to get in on this class, contact Vic, WA3YUV, for details!

At our meeting on August 14, we had a good attendance. Our guest speaker was none other than our own Activities Manager, Frank, N3OCW, who gave an interesting and informative presentation on Police RADAR. Frank is very knowledgeable on this subject, since he gets lots of experience with this equipment as part of his job with Prince George's Finest.

He displayed and discussed the different types used in our area and elsewhere, and explained the policy and procedures involved.

In addition to RADAR, he also covered LIDAR and VASCAR, going into the advantages and disadvantages of each. He discussed calibration procedures, as well as the "angular effect" which sometimes exists and can affect the accuracy of the reading.

All in all, a very interesting presentation, as evidenced by the many questions from the audience, and the fact that his presentation went until around 10pm.

SMARC is sad to report the passing of a former member, Bernie Walker, KA3DNW. Bernie hosted several SMARC Fall Picnics at his spacious home in Clinton, and will be remembered as a true gentleman and a credit to Ham Radio.

73, Al W2GJS

## Sterling Park Amateur Radio Club

**Meetings:** 8:00 P.M. - Third Monday of the month except July and August at Sterling Community Center Annex, Church Rd. (Rt. 625) near Route 28, Sterling, VA.
**Mailing:** Call Box 599, Sterling, VA 20167.
**Information:** Bill Lorentz, KS4II, 703-444-6341 or via email KS4II@AOL.com.

Thanks to all who came out for our annual pizza party held this year at the Countryside Cafe in Sterling. We all enjoyed seeing some photographs of our soggy field day event. Ed Larsen, KF4PJS, showed of some pictures of his latest radio purchase and of some of his "classic" equipment.

I am looking for suggestions for guest speakers for the 1998/99 club year. Please pass along any suggestions to me ASAP.

Remember that Sterlingfest '98 will be held

Saturday, October 10, following the annual Columbus Day parade, in and around the Sterling Community Center.

73, Bill, KS4II

## The Middle Atlantic FM and Repeater Council, Inc.

**Meetings:** Coordinating Committee (CC) normally meets the last Monday of each month, 19:30, in the OEP conference room of the Prince George's County Emergency Operations Center off Central Avenue. Talk-in on 147.18.
**Address**: P.O. Box 1022, Savage, Md. 20763-1022 for all correspondence.
**Web Page**: HTTP://WWW.T-MARC.ORG.
**E-mail**: TMARC@T-MARC.ORG
**Information**: President - Owen Wormser K6LEW (703)684-7682 CC Chairman - Bill Conaway W8HNT, Pager (703)741-4251.
**Ombudsman:** Jim Erickson K3LFO (410)549-1041, K3LFO@APEXGRP.COM.

The date and time for the Annual Meeting and elections has been set for Sunday afternoon, November 15th, at 1400 hours, at the Lee Center in Alexandria, Va. We need nominations for several officers/board members whose terms expire and cannot be re-elected again, and for some who do not plan to run for re-election. In particular, we're looking for someone(s) to volunteer for secretary and/or treasurer. Your membership dues must be paid up by the time of the election in order to be able to vote. Please, step up and volunteer! WE NEED YOU!

Our status inquiry letters keep on reaping benefits, with several more frequencies being turned in, including 224.28 and 443.85 on Kent Island, by the K.I.ARC. Thanks, gentlemen!

Several coordinations have been cancelled because mail has been returned by the U.S. Post Office, including KA4ATI on 444.850 near Thoroughfare, Va. and N3DPD on 223.82 in SE D.C. A few other coordinations are in jeopardy, as mail was also returned for the Western Maryland ARC, WD4KHP, N4RAG, and the Fauquier ARA. We note that the FBI ARC's 146.94 machine at Quantico is not in operation, but there does appear to be an un-coordinated repeater on another frequency in that area. Anybody know anything about it?

Final coordination has been issued to N3OUT for his 224.52 repeater at Port Deposit, Md., and N5GQD advises that his new 147.15 repeater at Kings Crossing, Va., is now in operation. Congrats to both of you! And we understand the callsign on the Culpeper ARC's repeater has been changed to W4CUL.

Our Open Band Planning Committee (OBC) continues to review the 6 Meter band plan. There may be some interest in discussing a NE regional change to a 1.7 MHz input/output spacing on 6 Meters, as much of the western U.S. is using. With 6 opening up much more, as the sunspot cycle is on the climb, a national standard looks more and more beneficial. Any comments? If so, please pass them on to our OBC.

Mark your calendar for November 15th!

73, Gary, W3DTN, T-MARC PIO

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## Vienna Wireless Society

**Meeting:** 7:30pm second and fourth Fridays of the month at the Vienna Community Center.
**Nets:** Pow-Wow nightly at 9 pm. on 28.444 MHz Slow speed code, nightly 8:30 pm on 28.390 MHz. Vienna Emergency Net, Wednesday 7:30 pm 146.085/146.685
**Repeater:** K4HTA 146.685(-), 448.375(-).
**Information:** Mike Toia, K3MT, president, (703) 757-7021; Program:Mike Steussey AE4R,(703) 281-0010.
**Mailing:** P.O. Box 418 Vienna, VA. 22183

The VWS heads into fall with several interesting programs on tap. Our regular meeting programs will include talks on several topics including: stealth antennas, government counter-intelligence, and transmission lines and connectors.

Other club activities include fox hunts, entry-level and more advanced classes, and clinics on the new ham rules regarding RF Exposure. It looks like we'll have several "hands-on" projects this winter, also.

Our recent club meetings have featured talks on Amateur Television, Ham Satellites, Emergency Preparedness, and big-gun DX stations. Other activities at meetings include "show-and-tell" by members of various vintage equipment and key and QSL collections.

Don't forget: The VWS Winterfest will be at Northern Virginia Community College for the first time this February. Lots more room both indoors and out. More parking, too!

We're looking for a great fall season. See you on the VWS nets.

73, Kerry WA4BQM

## Woodbridge Wireless, Inc.

**Meetings:** Second Tuesday of each month at Springwoods and Chaucer, Lake Ridge, VA.
**Net:** Monday nights at 2000 on 147.24 with 224.78 link.
**Packet:** N4SR 145.63 (DX packet cluster)
**Luncheon:** Every Friday at noon. Check-in on 147.24 for location.
**Repeaters:** WB4FQR 147.24 (+), WB4FQR 224.78 (-), WB4FQR 444.90 (+), N4LJZ 144.99 simplex PL-100 HZ
**Mailing:** PO Box 112,Woodbridge, VA 22194
**Information:** Bob Graham, K4RG, 703/878-0697
**Web Page**: http://www.pwcweb.com/wwi/

### JOTA

The Woodbridge Wireless is sponsoring it's seventh JOTA, Jamboree On The Air, October 17th. Set-up will begin at 7:30 AM at Pohick Regional Park off of Gunston Rd. in Lorton.

The WWI Emergency Vehicle "the bus" will be there. We need people to help set-up, tear-down, instruct, and help scouts operator. We also need a TV, VCR, table, and a canopy. Scouts are camping out the entire weekend so we will have a captive audience from 9AM to 3PM.

What's JOTA, you may ask? It's an annual event during which Hams around the country and the world open their station to local Scouts, and let them talk to other scouts and hams. It really is the most effective way to get young people interested in amateur radio.

Scouts are primed for getting involved in ham radio. We have directly or indirectly got new hams to join our ranks (both scouts and parents) each year we sponsor JOTA. DO YOU ENJOY AMATEUR RADIO? WANT TO KEEP IT

GOING? Well, this is something positive you can do to help ham radio and kids! Please volunteer to help in any way with this very worthy event. We plan to tear down about 3:30 PM.

Call Denis, W4DC, at 680-4998 for further information and to sign up. All area hams are invited to participate in person or on the air.

### WWI ANNUAL CHRISTMAS/HOLIDAY PARTY

It's not too early to mark your calendar for this great WWI event. The date is the evening of DECEMBER 5, 1998 (that's Saturday evening). It is tentatively planned to be a buffet at Kilroy's (unless someone has a better idea and wants to execute it).

As usual, this will replace the December monthly meeting. Last year 60 members attended, and were treated a DX program about Yemen presented by well know DXer Carl Henson, WB4ZNH. The program tentatively scheduled this year is "Wine Making and Tasting" presented by Will Heidig, W4ZSD.

There will be great door prizes, great food and drink, and this fun program. If you are interested in chairing, helping, or donating a door prize, contact Bob, KR4KF. Mark your calendar NOW!


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The American Radio Relay League is seeking a part-time support person for its Technical Relations office in Fairfax, Virginia. Skills required include knowledge of Windows operating systems, Microsoft Office Suite, filing, photocopying and mailing. Applicants can send resumes to ARRL, Attn. Robert Boucher, 225 Main Street, Newington, CT. 06111. Fax 860-594-0298, e-mail rboucher@arrl.org. EOE.


### *FAR MINUTES, from page 16*

licenses at the Charles County OEP on October 7th. Joe Sartori WB3IUT is the point of contact at (301) 877-2048.

Antietam RAC is continuing to work on the logs submitted for the MDC QSO Party that was held August 8-9.

Maryland Mobileers will be having a class for Novice through Technician Plus license starting sometime in October

NCAC is looking for help for the following events: DC Mass Casualty Exercise on September 22, Marine Corps Marathon on October 25, (703)-359-3414.

A motion to adjourn was entertained at 9:10 PM. The next meeting will be held at Lee Center in Alexandria, VA at 8:00 PM on Wednesday, September 9,1997. See Auto-Call magazine for directions.

Respectfully submitted,
Daniel C. Blasberg Jr. KA8YPY
Recording Secretary
Foundation for Amateur Radio

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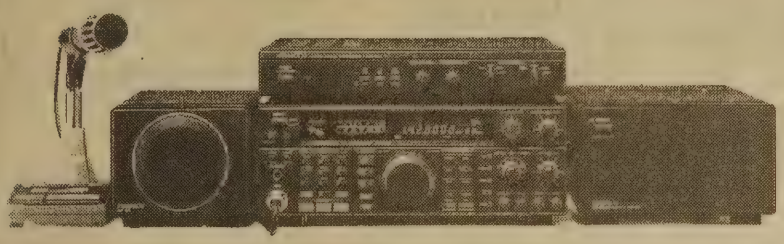

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**FOR SALE:** Kenwood TS 450 S/AT and Astron RS-20 power supply. New condition. K3EH. (301) 299-6562. [10/98]

**FOR SALE:** Hallicrcaft ers S36 receiver $50. Hallicrafters S36A receiver $50. Heathkit SB614 Station Monitor $80. Drake 9000E Communications Terminal (Tonno) $85. Info-Tech Amtor Converter $40. AEA Isopole 2 Meter Discone Antenna, New, $40. Contact Bernie Cohen, W3CAO, Thurmont, MD, (301) 271-2714, or online "BernW3CAO@aol.com". [10/98]

**WANTED**: Schematic and/or service manual for a Motorola MAXAR, Model L33TRBllOOAM transceiver. Currently the unit operates just above 2M. Will copy your manual or you copy and I pay. Roger, K3TM, 301-394-4775 weekdays. [10/98]

**FOR SALE:** Heathkit SB-200 linear amplifer 10-80 meters, manual, $275.00: W9GR digital signal processor, $55.00 w/12V DC power supply; Techtronics type 465 Oscilliscope W/2 probes, $280.00. OBO on all items. Ernie, K3CBW (410) 747-1377 or e-mail e.farkas@juno.com. [10/98]

**FOR SALE:** Yaesu FT-1000 HF Transceiver, with SP-5 external speaker, MD-100 desk microphone, used very little. $2400. Yaesu FT-990 HF transceiver, with Daiwa PS-400 power supply, $800. Yaesu FT-736R Multimode, Multiband VHF&UHF base station with 6Meter module, used very little. $1500. Yaesu FT-900 HF Transceiver, with tuner, power supply and remote cable, $700. Kantronics Kam Plus $200. TimeWave digital signal processor DSP-599zx like new $275. AEA antenna swr analyzer $175. MFJ-259SWRanalyzer $125. Antenna computer Analysis software-NEC-WIN Professional, and EZNEC, $100. AutekResearchWMl computing wattmeter $75. P1500 Digital RF Power/swr meter $100. Top Ten Antenna switch, one internal and one external with selector box, $200. Bencher Iambic paddle keyer $50. Vectronics DL-2500 Dry Dummy load 1.5 KW solid state load with fan $100. ANC-4 Antenna Noise Canceller $120. Palomal Field Strength Meter $100. Oak Bay High current power strips - two-$30 each. Palomar PCM-l RF current meter $75. Simpson 100 A DC meter with shunt $25. General Radio 1606b RF Bridge $500. Wavetek Model 3000 Signal Generator-like new $500.

Tecktronics solid state scope TDS-210 like new - one year old-$700. HP Model 410C RF voltmeter-old but works-$100. Contact Gregory Haas-W5ZNT, Vienna, VA, (703) 938-1329, e-mail: gregtybe@erols.com. [09/98]

**WANTED:** High capacity solar panels 12V for repeater use in Dominica. David Larsen (540) 763-3311 or KK4WW@fairs.org. [01/99].

**WANTED:** (Tube Type) Hi-Fi Equipments, LP records, Call: 703-680-5902, Fax: 703-730-9841. [09/98]

**WANTED:** Early pre-1980 microcomputers for museum collection. Also early microcomputer sales literature and magazines. KK4WW (540) 763-3311 or (540) 382-2935. [10/98]

Reminder - all submissions for

AUTO CALL

are due no later than the 1st of the month prior to the month of publication!!

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**Mid-Atlantic Radio Club.** Become a part of one of the country's fastest growing vintage radio clubs. The Mid-Atlantic Antique Radio Club is an active group of radio collectors, restorers and historians. For a sample newsletter, write to Barry Zimmerman, MAARC Membership Chair, 5825 Woodwinds Circle, Frederick, MD 21703-7579. (301) 696-5561. [SWP]

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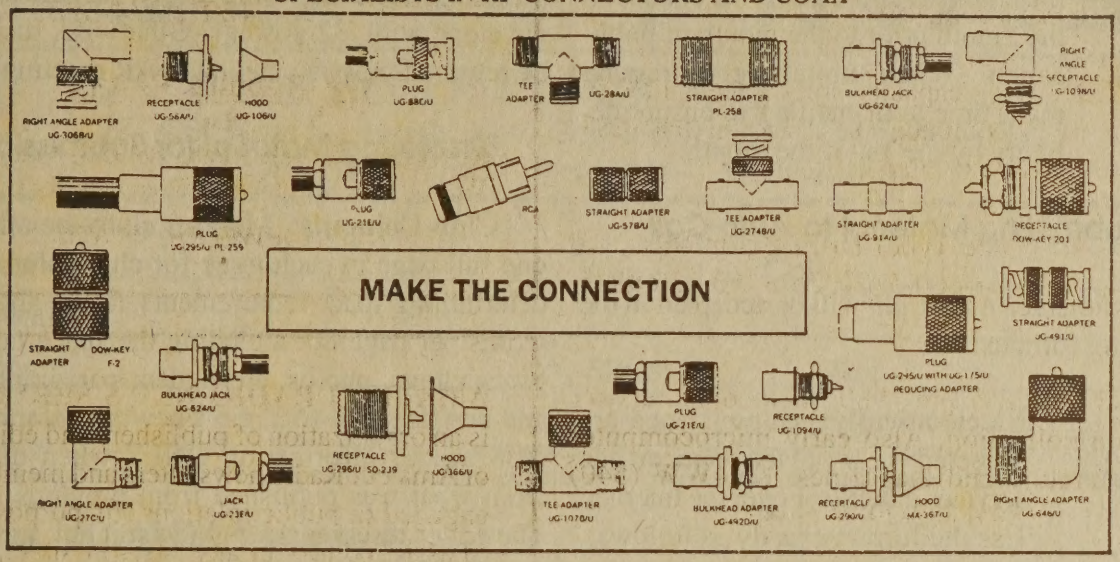


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# Auto Call Production Policy

**Deadline:** The deadline for ALL submissions to *Auto Call* is the 1st day of the month prior to the month of publication. When submitting via regular mail, time your mailing to ensure delivery by the 1st of the month.

## Submitting Material to *Auto Call*

Submissions for *Auto Call* will be accepted in the following formats:

**Electronically:** Submissions are accepted via any of the major on line services directly or over the Internet. Use the format exactly as follows:

**Internet** - JohnQueen@AOL.com
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**AppleLink** - johnqueen@aol.com@internet#
**BitNet** - johnqueen%aol.com@cunyvm
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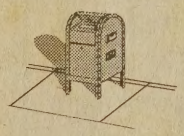

**Regular Mail:** Mail typewritten or computer generated hard copy to: John Queen, Editor, Auto Call Magazine, 755 Woodland Way, Owings, MD 20736. Ensure that your printed material is dark enough for scanning.

**Computer Disk:** Submissions are accepted on 3.5" or 5.25" computer disk, in either Macintosh or MS-DOS format, using Word, WordPerfect, or standard ASCII text files. Write your name, telephone number, and club name on the disk. Submit graphic files (club logos, etc) in an EPS or TIFF format. Please verify the readibility of your computer files before sending. If you want your computer disk returned immediately, include a SASE envelope with .32 postage. Otherwise, disks will be returned only in person at FAR meetings.

## Preparing Material for Submission

**Club Columns:** Member clubs are allocated one full page in each issue for club columns. In determining space requirements, figure about 700 words per page not including the space taken up by headings, photos, etc. Indent paragraphs .25" and double space to begin a new paragraph. Send club header information ONLY when different from what was published from previous month. The editor reserves the right to edit any submitted material for space, content and/or applicability.

**Hamfests/Events:** Member clubs are allocated one full page per year to promote one club sponsored hamfest, convention, or special event. Submit clean black & white camera ready copy only by mail. Master copy should be in black ink on white paper and should be in proper page ratio, (Copy space is 7" wide by 9" high). Copy can be reduced or enlarged as necessary. Electronic submissions of Hamfest ads will not be accepted.

**Photographs:** The editor will select the best photograph submitted for the cover each month. Photographs should depict club members, club stations, or amateur radio related events that are current and noteworthy. Clubs may also submit photographs for inclusion with their club column. Photographs will be used in columns when space permits. Either B&W or color photos can be used. For each photograph submitted, write your name, phone number, and club name, along with a description of the photograph on a piece of paper, and tape it on the back of the photograph. Do not write on the back of your photo. If you want your photos returned immediately, include a SASE envelope with sufficient postage. Otherwise, photos will be returned only in person at FAR meetings.

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# Area Club Meetings - OCTOBER 1998

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | 1<br>Anne Arundel | 2<br>Mobileers<br>Charles Co.<br>Shenandoah | 3<br>Green Mtn. |
| 4<br>Kent Island | 5<br>DOSARC | 6<br>Antietam<br>PGWA | 7<br>BARC<br>Montgomery | 8<br>AMRAD<br>MADRAS<br>Mid-Atlantic<br>Mt. Vernon<br>HEMARC<br>Faquier | 9<br>Vienna<br>So. Maryland<br>Alexandria | 10<br>North Point |
| 11 | 12<br>Carroll Co.<br>Potomac | 13<br>Leisure<br>Frederick<br>Woodbridge | 14<br>VOA<br>**FAR - MD**<br>Exp Post | 15<br>Anne Arundel | 16<br>Shenandoah | 17<br>Capital City<br>QCWA 91 |
| 18 | 19<br>OVHA<br>Sterling Park | 20<br>Antietam<br>Arlington | 21<br>BARC<br>Montgomery<br>Goddard | 22<br>MADRAS<br>St. Mary's | 23<br>Central MD<br>Vienna | 24 |
| 25<br>Adventist<br>(30TH) | 26<br>Green Mtn.<br>T-MARC<br>Calvert | 27<br>Columbia | 28<br>Exp Post<br>Moose<br>Laurel<br>Carroll Co. | 29 | 30 | 31 |

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